

Besides being a delicious addition to many kinds of dishes, rosemary has many health benefits. **Page 14**



Though in a poor state of repair, this section offers visitors a chance to walk on the original Great Wall. **Page 16**



He Yongjian, a 1.15-meter-tall 25-year-old sings his songs every day, doing his best to enjoy life. **Page 9**



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Wrap-up: Separate talks highlight second day of six-party talks



Journalists wait for news Thursday outside Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, where the six-party talks are currently underway. Photo by Jackey

The Beijing six-party talks on the Korean nuclear issue entered their second day at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse Thursday, and the participants held more bilateral and multilateral consultations on the sidelines of the collective talks.

Sources with the Chinese delegation said that the six parties on Thursday further clarified their stances and proposals expounded on Wednesday, and exchanged views in a frank atmosphere.

The talks, among China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, Russia, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan, began here Wednesday, and are expected to wrap up Friday.

The parties reiterated that denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the common goal of all sides, and the nuclear issue should be solved peacefully through diplomatic means, the Chinese sources said.

In addition, they stressed that relevant concerns related to the nuclear issue should also be handled seriously, the Chinese sources said.

Jeong Woo-jin, an official with

the ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry, said at a short briefing that the six parties held bilateral or trilateral talks in the afternoon.

Shin Bong-Kil, spokesman for the ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry said that the ROK and the DPRK have held bilateral contacts on the sidelines of the six-party talks.

According to a report, the United States, ROK and Japan held trilateral consultations at the US embassy here Thursday morning, just before the collective talks.

A press official with the Japanese delegation also proved that Kim Yong Il, head of the delegation of DPRK, and the Japanese head of delegation Mitoji Yabunaka had two contacts, respectively on Thursday morning and afternoon, totaling 40 minutes, exchanging views on the DPRK's nuclear weapon development and abduction of Japanese.

The Russian delegation head and Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losiukov was quoted as saying Thursday that the DPRK delegation showed interest in the de-nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and had no desire to possess nuclear weapons.

The Russian delegation Thursday also held separate meetings with the United States and the DPRK, and its meeting with the DPRK side lasted one and a half hours. Sources quoted Losiukov as saying that all parties were holding consultations on documents concerning the results of the six-party talks.

Although all the parties and relevant embassies refused to reveal either details or the schedule, it can be foreseen that the talks will move on to their third day, which is also the last day of the schedule.

Qi Baoliang, an expert on Korean issues at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, said Thursday all parties are playing active roles in holding multilateral and bilateral contacts and consultations, showing sincere and down-to-earth attitudes.

The talks this time are "a good start" and the first step to achieving consensus by all parties, said Shen Jiru, a noted researcher and chief of the Division of International Strategies of the Institute of World Economics and Politics under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. (Xinhua)

Going Up! Sightseeing Elevators Restart at World Heritage Site

By Chen Ying

After lying idle for over ten months, three controversial sightseeing elevators at the World Heritage listed Zhangjiajie National Forest Park resumed operation early this month.

Zhangjiajie, in the north of south China's Hunan Province, is China's first national forest park, and was listed as a World Heritage site in 1992.

Tourist cliffhanger

The project to build the 126 million yuan elevator was launched in October 1999.

The glass elevators run along a cliff face in the north of Zhangjiajie National Forest Park in Wulingyuan. Designed and operated by Bailong Elevator Company the structure consists of a 154-meter deep underground shaft and a 172-meter above-ground derrick.

Three double-story glass elevators run abreast up the side of the cliff to a plateau near Shuiraosimen, one of the key scenic spots in the park. It takes about two minutes to complete the journey from the base of the cliff to the top. Each elevator can carry 50 people per trip, with a total daily capacity of about 18,000 people.

Beijing Today reported on December 7, 2001, that according to Edmond Moukala, then program officer of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the local government had built the elevators without consulting the World Heritage Committee. Regardless of environmental impact, new constructions are forbidden at World Heritage nature sites,

Moukala said at the time.

In 2001, the local government demolished several hundred buildings at Zhangjiajie in response to a warning from the World Heritage Committee in 1997 about commercial overdevelopment.

According to an elevator conductor, income from passengers is currently around 200,000 yuan per day. Mo Shengzhong, office director of Zhangjiajie Wulingyuan Taxation Bureau revealed, "The local government levies a tax of about five percent of Bailong's income. That translates to 10,000 yuan a day, or about three million yuan every year. It represents one twentieth of the local government's total annual revenue."

Sun Delong, the president of Bailong, told the press, "In two years, the company will become the local super tax payer." He predicted the tax paid by the company by that time would reach 10 million yuan.

An untimely halt

After operating for only three months, Bailong had to stop running the elevators in September 2002, at the request of the Ministry of Construction. According to a document released by the ministry at that time, the request was made due to concerns about the elevator's safety, rather than protection of the natural landscape.

In 1998, the Hunan Province Environmental Protection Bureau sanctioned the Bailong Elevator Project's Environmental Influence Evaluation Report, which was compiled in 1997. But the bureau was not involved in the suspending of the elevators'

operation last year, nor was it aware of the recent resumption of service.

"The bureau would not sanction the project if it was handed to us now. The project was approved before the local authorities carried out the demolition of those other nearby buildings," Peng Hanshou, director of the Natural Protection Faculty of Zhangjiajie Environmental Protection Bureau, told CCTV.

According to Peng, demolishing the elevators was the best way to solve the problem. He also pointed out that the color of the elevators was not consistent with their surrounding.

"The municipal environmental administration hasn't the right to order the demolition of the elevators," Peng said. "Only the Ministry of Construction has the power to make such a decision."

Experts' view

According to the Landscape and Historic Relics Management Temporary Ordinance issued by the State Council, all buildings in the vicinity of listed sites and historic relics should be consistent with the surrounding. With the exception of necessary protection and related facilities, any construction in such areas is expressly forbidden.

Zhangjiajie is famous for its abundant quartzite stone. In fact the elevator is actually built against the side of a quartzite cliff.

Xie Ninggao, a professor from Beijing University, was invited to Zhangjiajie in 1999 to study the feasibility of building the elevators. He expressed his objection to the plan then, and continues

to do so today. "How can such devastating development be carried out in a protected national natural landscape area and ecology protection zone? From the point of view of science, industry and law, there would have been no problem had the project been refused permission in the first place."

"The sightseeing elevators have destroyed the authenticity and integrity of the landscape. It's not only a problem of safety," Xie stressed.

Permission to restart

As the president of Bailong Elevator Company Sun Delong said, the key reason the elevators were allowed to resume operation lay in the solving of the safety problem.

Sun told CCTV there was no reason why the elevators should not resume operation, since the company had obtained the necessary safety certification.

Yu Guoxin, vice president of Zhangjiajie Tourism Bureau, avoided answering directly a question by a CCTV reporter on whether the elevators had damaged the natural landscape. "It's just like a baby. After it is born, it should be protected by the law and have the right to live healthily and happily," he said, adding, "We have to deal with such contradictions, scrabbling for a living while owning such beautiful landscape."

Sun Delong said, "Without the elevator, tourists who wanted to visit these sites could not do so in one day, they would have to camp on the mountains. Then there will be several thousand tents."

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It takes about two minutes to complete the journey from the base of the cliff to the top. Xinhua Photo

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New Laws Address Banking Supervision

By Fan Zhigang

Translated by Hou Mingxin

The State Council's August 7 approval of amendment drafts of two major banking laws, the Law on the People's Bank of China and the Law on Commercial Banks, as well as a draft bank supervision law, made clear the national government's resolve to strengthen supervision of the banking industry and push banking risk management. These laws are awaiting final approval by the National People's Congress Standing Committee, China's top legislative body, expected soon.

The amendment draft of the Law on the People's Bank of China highlights the central bank's role in the macro-economy, especially in the sphere of currency policy.

The draft recommends that the central bank's currency policy com-

mittee play a more important role in steering the country's macro-economy, especially domestic currency policy.

Meanwhile, the draft cuts items concerning the central bank's supervision and regulation of commercial banks and financial institutions, as China set up a new watchdog, the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), in March.

Although the Standing Committee has authorized the CBRC to supervise the banking industry, previously the responsibility of the central bank, the bank supervision law has to be amended to confirm the legal position of the new commission.

The bank supervision law draft, the first of its kind in China, indicates a major change in the country's banking supervision policies,

moving from simply monitoring legitimacy of operation to putting equal importance on both legitimacy and risk control.

The draft also includes some of the Basel Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision, created in 1997 and now the most important global standards for prudential regulation and supervision in the banking industry.

According to the draft law, the CBRC shall set up effective guidelines to minimize financial risks for commercial banks and exercise cross-border banking supervision in conjunction with bank watchdogs of other countries and regions.

The amendment draft of the Law on Commercial Banks has also introduced some Basel Core Principles, including the establishment of internal risk management systems.

Under the draft amendment, state-owned commercial banks will no longer be required to grant policy-oriented loans at the request of the government. At present, such banks receive compensation from the State Council for losses incurred from policy-oriented loans.

China's commercial banks carry heavy burdens of non-performing loans and have limited time to deal with the problem before powerful foreign banks aggressively enter the domestic market. In part to answer that need and other demands of the rapidly growing banking sector, the draft amendment also loosens limits on investment by commercial banks. Present law bans commercial banks from investing in non-financial institutions or enterprises, or running securities or credit businesses.

The approval of these three laws, particularly the bank supervision law, is of great significance to China's ability to cope with increasing risks in banking as the country further opens its financial market in keeping with its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization.

Fan Zhigang is senior economist and deputy president of the City and Finance Institute under the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

Foreign Currency Further Opened for Investing Abroad

By Zhao Hongyi

China is further loosening controls on foreign currency reserves, giving greater leeway to domestic investors and foreign multinationals in the country to obtain foreign currency for expenditure abroad.

On August 13, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) launched a new trial policy in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, allowing domestic investors and foreign companies to purchase foreign currency or apply for permission to use money from their own accounts for outgoing payments.

Earlier this month, as part of

the trial, SAFE prepared \$1.2 billion for purchase by some domestic companies to invest abroad. In the past, Chinese investors planning to invest abroad had to have sufficient foreign currency in their own accounts, but under the new policy, even firms with no foreign currency can try to expand overseas.

In another aspect of the policy, US dollars will be sold on a trial basis in Zhejiang, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shandong and Fujian Provinces and Shanghai Municipality. If the one-year trial proves successful, the sales will be adopted by more provinces, perhaps the

whole nation, according to Wei Fengyi, section chief for capital account administration in SAFE's Guangdong branch, which is pioneering the reform.

Last week, the monetary authority confirmed that it is considering raising the ceiling for the amount of Renminbi that can be carried by individuals travelling abroad from the current 6,000 yuan to 30,000 or 50,000 yuan. A new regulation along these lines is expected to be issued and go into effect around the start of next year.

Some analysts have speculated the moves are intended as a ges-

ture by the central government to ease some of the recent pressure for the revaluation of the Renminbi from the US and Japan.

Moreover, in keeping with its WTO promises, China is liberalizing control over foreign currency transfers under capital accounts, meaning those used for investment, but transfers under current accounts, used for day-to-day transactions and the import and export of products, are still highly regulated.

By the end of last year, China's foreign currency reserves reached \$286.4 billion and have continued to increase this year.

City Simplifies Alien Employment License Application

By Hou Mingxin

The Beijing Municipal Labor and Social Security Bureau (BMLSSB) has issued a regulation, effective as of July 29, that has simplified employment license application procedures for foreigners and people from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao working in the capital.

"According to international practice and related laws of China, foreigners and people from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao who work in this country should apply for employment permits, which can pro-

tect their legal rights," Feng Linqiao, director of the Foreigner Employment Service Department under the BMLSSB's Employment Service Center, said when interviewed by *Beijing Today* on Monday.

She added that such people should submit applications for their employment licenses to the bureau. According to the new regulation, licenses are to be issued in five working days, instead of ten day processing time, and the time needed to reissue an expired license has been cut from five to

three working days.

Corporate representatives, senior managers and senior technicians at Chinese enterprises can directly apply for five-year or three-year extended employment licenses.

Intermediate managers and technicians first need to get employment permits from the national Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then can apply for two-year employment licenses.

Foreign firms' chief representatives in Beijing can also apply

for three-year licenses, while their general staff can receive up to two-year licenses.

Every applicant should provide necessary documents including his/her corporate charter, original employment contract, health certificate, Chinese resumé, valid passport and academic degree certificate.

"By the end of last year, around 13,000 foreigners and people from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao had been granted employment licenses," said Feng, "and that number is expected to reach 15,000 this year."

Forums for Sixth High-tech Expo Unveiled

By Xiao Rong

Aiming at improving public administration in the capital, a round table on Beijing's social development will debut at the sixth China Beijing International High-tech Expo set to be held September 12 to 15.

"Following the recent SARS outbreak, establishing a harmonious and sustainable relationship between economic development and social management has become a major goal for the municipal govern-

ment," said Chu Xiangyin, vice director of the Beijing Sub-Council of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, organizer of the expo, on Wednesday.

A global symposium on urban emergency networks to focus on the issues of public health, urban economic growth and crisis management will also be held during the event.

Another highlight of the sixth expo will be the Beijing International

Forum on Patents and Standards, which will draw officials, experts and entrepreneurs to discuss China's intellectual property strategy in facing the increasing number of trade disputes between domestic enterprises and their global rivals since China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Focusing on the theme of scientific and technological innovation, forums held during the expo will cover issues such as future strat-

egies of enterprises, development of listed companies, China's capital market and monetary policies, credit and enterprise research and development systems.

Almost 400 top personnel from domestic and overseas government organizations, high-tech enterprises, financial firms and academic institutions have signed up to attend the eight forums and 11 exchange activities scheduled to be held in this course of this year's event.

agement system of the landscape area. "The supervision system is not transparent."

He said when the group first started discussing the new plan, the group members were opposed to reopening the elevators. "But we met stiff resistance. The whole planning process could not have moved on if we had continued to insist they not be reopened."

Li also revealed that the local government still did not agree when the group suggested that the elevators be allowed to reopen providing they be demolished at the conclusion of their serviceable life. "As far as the local government is concerned, the elevators should never be demolished!"

Tan Zhengxing.

A group of experts are currently in the process of drawing up a new general plan for Wulingyuan for 2001 to 2020. Li Dihua, of the Graduate School of Landscape Architecture at Beijing University is a member of the group.

According to Li, the elevators are in the wrong place. "They shouldn't have been built in the core area of a national landscape area," he said.

"The project's environmental protection evaluation was not sufficiently comprehensive," Li continued, pointing out that the reason for the elevators resuming operation lay in the man-

broken the law or whether the local government intended to demolish the elevators. "At least, it's impossible to demolish it now since it has been just established. When we will demolish it depends on our future economic and environmental level of development."

Compromise for future planning

Construction of the Bailong Elevator was listed in the Landscape Plan for Wulingyuan, drawn up in 1990. "Generally speaking, a city's planning will be modified at intervals of five years. But this plan hasn't been modified for a long time, due to its complexity," said former chief engineer of Zhangjiajie Construction Bureau

(Continued from page 1)

Project chief engineer Zhuo Zhiyuan told *Beijing Today*, "Such elevators are really convenient for tourists. But from the angle of environmental protection, they shouldn't have been erected." However, he added, it was now too late to talk about whether the project should have been allowed or not. "Otherwise, it will cause huge loss for the investors. Now all we can do is to take it as a lesson and never make a similar mistake again."

Yang Xinmin, director of the construction department at Wulingyuan, was unwilling to answer CCTV's question about whether the Bailong Elevator Project had

Olympic Building Designs Open to Public Voting

By Hou Mingxin

From August 24 to 31, five candidate designs for the National Gymnasium and Olympic Village will be made public on the website www.bjinvest.gov.cn, and Chinese citizens are invited to vote for their favorite plans.

The National Gymnasium will be an advanced, multi-functional venue with 19,000 seats that will host gymnastics, hand ball, volleyball and other events during the 2008 Olympics.

The Olympic Village will provide athletes, coaches and officials from all over the world participating in the Games a comfortable area for living, rest and recreation.

In order to give the public more information about the design plans for the two facilities, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development Planning will organize groups of interested people to visit the actual models of the plans and select their favorites at Yuquan Park in Haidian District from Friday through Sunday.

State to Loosen Foreign Trade Requirements for Domestic Enterprises

By Hou Mingxin

In line with China's World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments, the Ministry of Commerce issued a notice Tuesday granting all Chinese enterprises registered in this country equal treatment in terms of permission to engage in foreign trade.

According to the notice, starting September 1, the minimum amount of registered capital necessary for domestic enterprises to apply for foreign trade operation qualification will be lowered from 5 million yuan to 1 million yuan, and from 3 million yuan to 500,000 in China's central and western regions. Moreover, a previous requirement that enterprises had to have been operating for at least one year has been cancelled.

Registered capital requirements for productive enterprises that apply to the ministry for permission to conduct independent import and export operations will be cut to a minimum of 500,000 yuan from the previous 3 million yuan and 2 million yuan in central and western regions.

At the same time, rights for approving applications will be transferred from the Ministry of Commerce to provincial-level commerce authorities.

Nepal Opens Door to Chinese Tourists

By Helena Liu

The mountain nation of Nepal is making clear efforts to draw Chinese tourists, as shown by last Wednesday's signing of an air service agreement between Nepal and China in Beijing and negation of visa requirements for domestic travelers.

The long-awaited air service agreement will expand air traffic between the two countries, overcoming the previous bottleneck of limited flights.

Before the agreement, Nepal announced a new visa-free entry policy for tourists from China as well as the South Asian countries of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan and Maldives, that took effect as of August 6. Similar treatment will be extended to citizens of these nations planning to re-enter Nepal who stayed in the country for at least 15 days in the previous visa year (January to December).

The Nepalese government has backed these moves by taking a series of steps to boost the country's tourism industry by opening more mountain peaks and areas to climbers and hikers, allowing rafting of more rivers and easing restrictions on travel in some protected regions.

Japanese OK'd for Visa-Free Short Visits to China

By Hou Mingxin

Starting September 1, Japanese citizens who hold personal passports will be allowed to stay a maximum of 15 days in China without having to first arrange a visa, the *Beijing Times* reported last Thursday.

Holders of passports for public affairs or foreign affairs, meaning government employees, and Japanese planning to stay longer than 15 days in this country still need to apply for entry visas.

The visa-free program is one-sided, however, meaning that Chinese who want to go to Japan still must first get visas.

China issued similar visa exemptions to tourists from Singapore and Brunei in June.

Passports More Accessible for Beijingers

By Guo Yuandan

On September 1, the Beijing Municipal Government will begin implementation of a new "passport on demand" policy meant to simplify procedures for applying for passports.

Under the new rules, applicants just need to present identification cards and *hukou* (residence registration), negating previous demands for a thick stack of various documents. Among the dropped requirements is written permission from work units.

Municipal residents can directly go to the Exit-Entry Administration of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau to apply for personal passports, or send in their applications and documents through EMS. The administration will issue passports within 10 working days after checking the required documentation.

People from other provinces and municipalities in China that live in Beijing and have worked for foreign businesses, joint ventures or firms in the private sector for over one year can also apply for the easier passports.

However, people with special status, such as some government officials and managers of large and medium-sized state-owned enterprises, must still obtain permission from their work units when applying for passports.

Ministries Must Use Domestic Software

By Hou Mingxin

According to a new regulation issued by the Procurement Center of the State Council earlier this month, ministries of the Chinese government are required to use office software made in China, Sunday's *Beijing Youth Daily* reported.

Last Friday, fifteen ministries, including the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of State Security, began software upgrading procedures and became the first users of the newest edition of WPS office software, a program suite developed and made by Beijing-Based Kingsoft Company.

The government started to encourage use of domestically-produced software last year in a bid to support China's software sector and better protect state information. At present, the Chinese market is dominated by Microsoft's Office software.

Intel Strengthens Presence in China

Intel CEO Craig Barrett at a press conference in Beijing Thursday for the launch of the research center in partnership with Lenovo

Photo by Photocom



By James Liu

Chip manufacturer Intel will begin construction next year of a \$200 million chip testing-and-assembly facility in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. Intel CEO Craig Barrett signed the contract on August 27 with Chengdu Municipal Government during his eighth visit to China.

Construction of the Chengdu plant, which will initially employ 675 people, will begin in the first half of 2004 and become operational in 2005. The plant will be Intel's fifth chip testing-and-assembly facility worldwide. The company says it expects to invest a further \$175 million in the future

and add additional employees.

Intel said in a statement that it was building the plant in response to growing demand for its chips in Asia and elsewhere around the world. Chengdu was selected as the site because of its strategic location and the availability of a well-trained work force.

Beijing Star Daily reported on August 28 that Barrett has two other missions to complete in Beijing. One is to sign a cooperation contract with local IT company Lenovo on determining an international standard for Digital Home Working Group (DHWG) and the other is to achieve a closer cooperation

with China's Ministry of Education. Responding to a reporter's question on why Intel was setting up a chip plant in China, Barrett said it was because the US government had set strict restrictions on exporting this state-of-art technology.

DHWG is a non-profit organization dedicated to the simplified sharing of digital content, such as digital music, photos and video, among networked consumer electronics, mobile devices and PCs. The group represents 17 industry leaders including Intel, HP, Samsung, Sharp, Sony, Nokia, IBM, Lenovo and Microsoft.

Before Lenovo joined DHWG,

it announced together with four other local major consumer electronics manufactures (Great Wall, Hisense, Konka and TCL) the formation of an "information gateway resource sharing working group" in Beijing on July 16. Sun Yuping, vice-president of Lenovo Research Academy and head of the working group, said the aim was to develop a protocol that enables automatic detection, automatic networking, and resource sharing and collaboration among IT devices, home appliances and communication devices in both wired and wireless modes compatible with international standards, such as DHWG.

'2003 Top 500 Chinese Firms



Top 500 Chinese Companies Named

By James Liu

China's top 500 companies have been named in a report by the Beijing-based China Enterprise Confederation. The list, released on August 23, ranks companies according to their 2002 sales volume, and includes over 100 new names.

China National Petroleum, ranked 69 on the Fortune Global 500, took first place with a turnover of US \$45.8 billion last year. The world's ninth-biggest petroleum company, the corporation ranked third on last year's list.

Last year State Power Corporation topped the list, with US \$48.4 billion yuan in sales, but it has since been split into two separate utilities in line with the central government's decision to end the monopoly on China's electricity power market.

China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) held its position in second place, while mobile operator China Mobile moved up from sixth to third place. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China was the only bank to make it into the top five, holding its position at No 4.

According to the report, state-owned companies account for 73.6 percent of the listed companies while only 69 private enterprises hold their positions on the list. But Chinese enterprises are still small in scale compared with international giants, according to the report.

China National Petroleum's volume of business in 2002 was equivalent to only 18 percent of that of US-based Wal-Mart, the world's largest company.

Of the 100 best known international brands named in US-based BusinessWeek last year, six were from Asia but none were from China.

China Mobile Faces SP Profit Fall

By James Liu

Hong Kong based portal Tom.com has thrown off three and a half years of losses, reporting a net profit for the first time of ten million yuan in this year's second quarter. Its success is mainly attributed to mobile short message value added services through its website portal. However, Tom.com probably will not see a golden autumn this year, as China Mobile ceased collecting fees for service providers (SPs) for three months as of August.

Numerous Internet content providers (ICPs) and SPs are affected by the policy change, and are seeking help from the main portal websites like Sina.com, Sohu.com, Netease.com and Tom.com. Fang Xingdong, director of the Chinalabs, told *Beijing Today* that there are two ways ahead for ICPs and SPs.

The conservative road, is for China Mobile to only give permits to those ICPs who gain approval from government supervising bodies and ensure their services do not transmit pornographic, anti-state, or anti-social content.

The flexible way is that China Mobile resumes the former policy and only gives value added service permits to authorized SPs. These SPs, however, under pressure to make profits, will be open to individual and unauthorized ICPs or SPs and reach cooperation in providing services to Internet and mobile users. The income distribution among the related parts, however, will be in the form of technology transfer so that the authorized SPs can avoid accusations of earning dirty money.

Fang Xingdong is now studying at Tsinghua University for a doctoral degree in E-commerce. His Chinalabs company offers IT related analysis, market research and counseling service.

Digital Theater Sues Skyworth Over Trademark Use

By James Liu

China's leading television manufacturer, Skyworth Digital Holdings, said on August 18 that the US-listed Digital Theater Systems is suing the company over its allegedly illegal use of trademarks and "certain know-how."

Digital Theater launched actions against two Skyworth subsidiaries, Skyworth Multimedia International and Skyworth Sales (Hong Kong) on August 5 to restrain them from using the name or mark "DTS" or "dts," and for the use of "certain know-how allegedly owned

by Digital Theater," Skyworth stated on its website.

The Chinese television-maker said the litigation would not hurt normal business operations, as there is no material reliance by the group on the know-how and trademarks in question. According to the press release, Skyworth signed a contract with Digital Theater in October 2001 allowing the former to use DTS technology and the trademark.

Skyworth said it would make further announcements as appropriate. Huang Hongsheng, board director of Sky-

worth, told *Beijing Today* on August 22 that an agreement had been reached between the two sides, but was reluctant to reveal the details.

The suit demands payment of damages and the surrender of profits earned from the alleged infringements, as well as the handing-over of allegedly infringing products and materials. The lawsuit is the second such case since US-based Cisco filed suit against Huawei Technologies over alleged copying of Cisco's intellectual property in January 2003.

NPLs Sales Online

By Zhao Hongyi

China's first online non-performing assets transaction center was established at the Zhongguancun-based China Technology and Equity Exchange earlier this month.

The site, www.ctee.com.cn, lists 20 billion yuan worth bad assets from the big four state-owned asset management companies, Huarong, Great Wall, Orient and Cinda. These bad assets, from sectors including machinery, construction materials, environment protection, information technology, real estate, ports, tourism and trade, and

are described as offering great potential to interested investors from home and abroad.

Established at the beginning of this year, the exchange is aimed to facilitate the transactions of technologies, industrial and scientific properties.

By the end of the first quarter this year, the four asset management companies had dismissed 343 billion yuan worth of non-performing loans collected from the state owned commercial banks.

The center will promote the sales at the coming China Beijing International High-tech Expo scheduled on September 12-15.

China Life Restructures

By Zhao Hongyi

China Life Insurance, China's largest life insurer, restructured its business framework yesterday in Beijing, launching ChinaLife (Group) and ChinaLife Holdings.

The aim of the restructure is to set up an umbrella for the development of new financial business and products under ChinaLife Group, while ChinaLife Holding will focus on life insurance prod-

ucts, according to Wang Xianzhang, general manager of the new ChinaLife Holdings.

First established in 1949, China Life Insurance has become the largest life insurer in China, with a premium income of 128.7 billion yuan last year, 57 percent of the domestic market turnover. It is the only Chinese insurer listed in the "Fortune Global 500", ranking 290 in terms of operational income.

JV Insurance Branch Opens

CITIC-Prudential Life Insurance, a Sino-British joint venture insurance company, opened its branch in Beijing Wednesday.

General manager of the branch, Calvin Chang, said the branch, the first joint venture life insurance company to open in Beijing, would initially provide life insurance, profit sharing insurance, accident insurance and health insurance services.

Established in October 2000 between the British Prudential PLC and China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC), CITIC-Prudential Life Insurance has recorded fast business growth in China.

Beijing reported 23.3 billion yuan (about \$2.81 billion) of premium revenue in 2002, up 67 percent over the previous year.

(Xinhua)

Fujitsu and Great Wall Sign Broadband Deal

By James Liu

China's major broadband service provider Great Wall Broadband Network Service signed a cooperation contract on August 15 with Japan's Fujitsu on Ethernet based passive optical networks (EPON) application in Chinese market.

According to the contract, Great Wall Broadband will use Fujitsu's EPON broadband access system to construct a Chinese broadband network. The EPON broadband access system has advantages in management, operating cost and stable performance over current broadband networks. The most significant difference is that EPON uses a single code optical fiber while most of the current broadband systems use double code optical fiber. Also, as EPON does not require electrical power

to transmit data, the network stability will be greatly enhanced.

Sun Ziqiang, general manager of Great Wall Broadband, expressed the hope that the move could help his company turn from deficit to profit. Among its outlets in 30 cities, only branches in six cities have seen profit recently. This stands as an achievement compared to the efforts of Great Walls rivals, however, which have failed to attract customers despite heavy investments in constructing broadband networks.

Great Wall currently has three million broadband users, and the company claims this figure is increasing by some 700 a day. Sun thus estimates that by the end of this year, total monthly income could reach as high as 28 million yuan (US \$ 3.4 million).

NTT DoCoMo to Establish Research Center

By Zhao Hongyi

NTT DoCoMo, the Japanese mobile multimedia services provider, announced August 26 it will establish a communications research center for 4G research in Beijing.

The new center will research and promote the advancement of mobile communication technolo-

gies for fourth-generation and beyond. Total investment is put at US \$5.3 million.

Earlier this year, DoCoMo joined with Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa to develop and promote third generation mobile multimedia and communications services on an international basis.

Accor Eyes Asia Economy Hotel Sector

By James Liu

French hotel management group Accor is to introduce its economy hotel brand, Ibis, into China and South Korea this year as part of an expansion program of its economy hotel division in Asia. The move will mark the first time for an international hotel group to develop an economy hotel chain in Asia specifically targeting the domestic business and leisure travel markets.

Two Ibis hotels will open in the last quarter of 2003, in Tianjin, China and Seoul, South Korea, marking the entry of Accor's Ibis brand into two of Asia's most important commercial markets. Ibis Chengdu will open in the third quarter of 2004, in capital of Sichuan Province, while construction will begin on another in Qingdao next year.

Over 2,500 of Accor's 4,000 hotels are in the economy hotel sector. Accor Asia Pacific managing director Michael Issenberg, said at a press conference on August 15 in Beijing that Ibis hotels will satisfy the emerging class of travellers in China who will not be looking to stay in five-star hotels but who do want international quality standards.

"Accor will continue to expand its upmarket Sofitel and Novotel brands because they have an important place in the market, but we will balance this with a major emphasis on the expansion of Ibis, to ensure we have a balanced and comprehensive hotel portfolio to offer travellers," added Issenberg. Accor now manages 21 hotels in the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong.

Softbank President to Give Lectures

By Zhao Hongyi

Yoshitaka Kitao, president and CEO of Japanese venture capital investor Softbank Finance Corporation, will visit Beijing from September 8 to 10 to deliver a series of lectures and discuss possible new projects with local partners.

Softbank Finance is the investing arm of Softbank, a leading pioneer in Internet technology, investment and services. It has invested in some two dozen Chinese IT ventures, including sina.com, netease.com, and UT Starcom.



WTO Races to the Start Line

Geneva, August 25 (AFP) - After working through the weekend, the World Trade Organization's (WTO) top official circulated the draft of a declaration to be issued at a crucial ministerial trade summit in Mexico in two weeks.

The highly-anticipated, 21-page revised outline text covers key areas in the current Doha round of free trade negotiations, including agricultural subsidies and market access for industrial products.

Although its contents are not yet agreed, it suggests frameworks, mostly without figures, for ministers of the 146-strong WTO to agree at the September 10-14 meeting in the Mexican resort of Cancun.

Entrenched positions among countries as well as a flurry of new proposals last week held up the release of the draft declaration, originally due to be published on Friday.

Diplomats waited patiently late into the evening at WTO headquarters for the document's release, which negotiators will mull over before meeting on Monday to give their initial reactions.

On agriculture, the draft text reflects some elements of a joint EU and US plan, released on August 13, but

gives more detail on special provisions for developing countries.

It calls for an elimination of export subsidies for products "of particular interest to developing countries".

For remaining products, it proposes reductions "with a view to phasing out, budgetary and quantity allowances for export subsidies", although it adds that the target phasing-out date is still open for negotiation.

Tariff reductions by developed countries should be managed under a "blended" formula involving gentler average cuts for some products, as well as steeper cuts on higher tariffs for others.

The draft text offers alternative solutions for developing countries, but states that they should benefit from "lower tariff reductions and longer implementation periods".

Concerning state aid for farmers, meanwhile, the text calls for limits on certain types of support.

Brazil, India and China last week led a group of 17 developing countries in calling for a substantial reduction of all subsidies to farmers in what amounted to more far-reaching demands than those contained in the EU-US proposal, and for the elimination of all export subsidies.

Analyst's Take:

At the 1999 ministerial meeting in Seattle, developed countries proposed discussing the market access of e-commerce and bio-technologies. This was replaced by the developing countries who insisted on the issues of trade of products, services and intellectual properties.

The draft of the Cancun declaration is only a framework covering all the issues that should be discussed but with no concrete results.

If all the parties cannot reach an agreement at the meeting, in part at least, a postponement of the Doha Agenda, scheduled to be finished by 2005, is inevitable. Postponements were frequent in the previous eight rounds of negotiations.

— Cheng Dawei, WTO professor, Renmin University of China
No matter how long the negotiations are postponed, they will be concluded, sooner or later in the next decade.

Aside from the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) and dispute settlements, which are too hard to be agreed on, parties can reach common ground on the other issues. But the Singapore issues are so difficult that even a start in negotiation is impossible at present.

The Doha Development Agenda covers a range of economic, social, cultural and political targets, which are in line with our efforts towards a "well-off society". Therefore, all of us should pay attention to the overall discussion and negotiation of the agenda.

— Deng Hongbo, director, Beijing WTO Affairs & Consulting Center

BOX: Doha Development Agenda

- Implementation-related issues
- Agriculture
- Services
- Market access for non-agricultural products
- Trade-related intellectual property rights
- Dispute settlement
- Trade and environment
- Special and differential treatment towards developing countries

- WTO rules: anti-dumping; subsidies; regional trade agreements
- Singapore Issues** (set at the first WTO Ministerial Conference held in Singapore, December 9-13, 1996):
 - Relationship between trade and investment
 - Interaction between trade and competition policy
 - Transparency in government procurement
 - Trade facilitation

Traditional crafts displayed for sale at the summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The 23rd SADC summit was held on August 26 in Dares Salaam, capital of Tanzania. Regional integration, poverty reduction, food security, and HIV/AIDS again became the main topics.

Economic disparity is widening within the 14-member community. South Africa occupies 70 percent of the \$180 billion GDP in the block.

SADC's member states are Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Xinhua Photo



A Hard Road to A Bright Future

SEC Ready to Get Tough

Washington, August 14 (AP) - The new chief accountant at the Securities and Exchange Commission, arriving from a Big Four accounting firm, promised Thursday to demand high ethical standards from the scandal-tainted industry.

Donald Nicolaisen will become the agency's first permanent chief accountant since November, when Robert Herdman resigned amid investigations into his role in the selection of former FBI Director William Webster to head a new accounting oversight board.

Herdman's departure deepened the sense of turmoil at the agency at a time when it had to resolve a series of accounting scandals that shook Americans' confidence in the stock market and corporate integrity.

Nicolaisen faces the challenges of restoring the accounting industry's

reputation and public confidence in companies' financial reports, as well as enhancing the flow of financial information to investors, said SEC Chairman William Donaldson, who selected Nicolaisen for the job.

He called Nicolaisen, 59, a senior partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, "a powerful agent of change" during his 36-year career in the accounting industry.

"I feel passionately that the accounting profession must continue to raise the standards for audit quality and ethical behavior," Nicolaisen said at a news conference with Donaldson. "I will enforce the law and demand that people act with integrity and ethics. As a regulator, I will ensure that investor interests are put above the interests of all others."

Because of his position at PricewaterhouseCoopers, Nicolaisen will be required to remove himself for at least a year from any SEC actions involving the firm or its corporate audit clients. He starts work in late September.

Analyst's Take:

Harry Huang, chief Nasdaq representative in China

The SEC's mission is to protect the interests of investors. To this end, the SEC oversees key participants in the stock exchanges, broker-dealers, investment advisors, mutual funds, and public utility holding companies for the accurate disclosure of information and enforcement of securities laws.

Scandals were inevitable in the economically prosperous late 1990s. The SEC's investigations into 'bad' companies are mainly symbolic, targeting the long-term development of the stock markets and investment environment in the US.

Zhao Xijun, professor, Department of Finance, Renmin University of China

ment of Finance, Renmin University of China

The SEC is really busy these days. After a settlement with a fine of \$750 million for MCI, it is investigating Lancer, the beverage equipment supplier to Coke; PricewaterhouseCoopers for possible problems in the auditing of the troubled Tyco International; Lucent Technologies' possible bribery case in Saudi Arabia; Deutsche Bank's problematic role in the merger of HP and Compaq; possibly fraudulent accounting reports by Reynolds Tobacco; cancer-testing service provider Impath; the Switzerland-based medical technology company Centerpulse; and the credit-card issuer Metris.

The SEC is also shifting the focus of its investigations, from the companies' senior executive officers like those in Enron and WorldCom, to the auditing and accounting firms like PricewaterhouseCoopers, to the middle and low level officers and individual staff.

Russia Keeps MiG



Photo by Sina.com

Moscow, August 22 (AP) - The Russian government said Friday that while aircraft manufacturer MiG is on a list of companies slated for privatization

next year, the state will maintain full control of the company and will not sell any of its shares.

Moscow-based MiG is on a list of more than 1,000 state-owned enterprises that Russia intends to privatize in 2004 under a plan approved by Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov and posted on the government's Web site Thursday.

But government spokesman Alexei Gorshkov said that while MiG will be incorporated, or turned into a joint-stock company, 100 percent of its shares will be federal property, the Interfax news agency reported.

"We are not talking about the sale of a package of shares of the future joint-stock company MiG," the agency quoted Gorshkov as saying.

Gorshkov said MiG was included in the list of companies to be privatized next year because it must be incorporated in order to carry out a plan to form a holding company comprising the aircraft manufacturer and several other aviation enterprises. The holding company will probably be created in 2005, he said.

Media Reports:

The Russian government is taking steps to sort out its military property, which include introducing new management concepts.

Russia has 9860 federation owned

enterprises, 1700 of which are military-related ones. The government is to partly privatize 911 this year, 1006 next year, and expects to obtain 110 billion rubles in cash by 2006.

But privatization of military-related enterprises is prohibited. Though difficult to run, they still have enormous technology expertise and production capability. Therefore, Moscow is planning a partial privatization and emphasizes it will hold a controlling stake in MiG.

The list for the preliminary privatization also includes Chechen petrochemical, the largest military-related enterprise, and Ural Cabin, which produces the world famous T-72 and T-90 tanks.

— Gu Xiaoqing, senior reporter in Moscow, Xinhua News Agency

Iran Cozies up to Japan

Tokyo, August 27 (Reuters) - Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi arrived in Japan Wednesday for a three-day visit amid signs of progress on a \$2 billion deal to develop Azadegan, one of the world's largest untapped oil fields.

The Japanese government is under pressure from the United States to back away from the deal due to concerns over Iran's nuclear program.

But resource-poor Japan has made clear it is keen to do the deal with Tehran, its third-largest oil supplier. A consortium consisting of the government-backed Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. (JAPEX), INPEX Corp. and trading house Tomem Corp. are engaging in the discussion.

NYSE Pays \$140 Million to Keep Grasso

New York, August 27 (Reuters) - The New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday said it paid out almost \$140 million to Chairman and Chief Executive Richard Grasso in accrued savings, benefits and incentives, and extended his contract for two years, until 2007.

Some NYSE members and expert observers were critical of Grasso's compensation package. Grasso has worked for the NYSE for 36 years and has been chairman since 1995.

The stock exchange earned \$28.1 million in 2002, according to its annual report.

(Nicole Maestri)

Murdoch to Revamp Star India

New Delhi, August 26 (The Daily Deal) - Rupert Murdoch's head of operations for News Corp. in India said Monday, August 25, that the company would bow to new media rules issued over the weekend by the government that require majority ownership by Indians of all domestic broadcasters.

"Now that we know exactly what the guidelines are, we can move ahead," said chief executive Peter Mukherjee of Star India Private Ltd., News Corp's operating company in India. "We will alter the equity structure of the company."

(Josey Puliyyenthuruthel)



Philips chairman and chief operating officer Gerard Kleisterlee
Reuters Photo

Philips to Shut Factories

Amsterdam, August 23 (AFP) - Dutch electronics group Philips will close down 50 of its remaining 150 factories worldwide.

Philips' chairman Gerard Kleisterlee had earlier suggested that Philips would concentrate more on marketing and developing new ideas than production.

Philips also announced it would restructure its consumer electronics division and concentrate on three areas: screens, multimedia products and mobile communications.

Philips has already closed or sold some 120 factories worldwide and cut 50,000 jobs over the past five years.



A new IKEA home furnishings store in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
AP Photo

IKEA to Open New Stores in China

Shanghai, August 27 (AFP) - Swedish home furniture retailer IKEA is planning further expansion beyond its current two outlets in Beijing and Shanghai, with a new store in Guangdong, and a second one in the capital.

IKEA also plans to open a new store in Shanghai's Pudong district and expects to have 10 new outlets in China by 2010.

The world's largest furniture retailer saw sales rise 24 percent to 713 million yuan (86 million dollars) last year and had achieved double-digit growth every year since opening in China in 1999, according to its China manager Ian Duffy.

Olympic Artist Holds Show in Capital

By Chen Ying

Renowned Olympic artist Charles Billich has created 18 new paintings in a group titled *I Love Beijing*, depicting major landmarks and other sites in the Chinese capital, and was on hand for the opening ceremony of an exhibition of the works at the China World Hotel yesterday afternoon.

Among the subjects of the paintings being shown in the 10-day

exhibition are the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Great Wall and Temple of Heaven.

On Tuesday, Billich, 69, told *Beijing Today* that in creating the paintings, he used his skills and medium to remold the sites from images in his own mind, a technique he calls "assemblage". "My paintings are my visual language, I have always been able to communicate well with Chinese people through them,"

he said.

Billich was born in Croatia and now lives in Australia. His artistic career spans over 40 years, in which his works have received worldwide acclaim and recognition, and he served as the official artist of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Billich's painting *Beijing Millennium Cityscape* was presented to the Beijing Olympic Bid Committee in 2001 as a personal show of support

Charles Billich autographs an Olympic-inspired artwork by a young local fan on Thursday afternoon.

Photo by Geng Lei



for the city's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games in 2001.

Since he was first invited to China to be a guest artist by the Chinese Artists Association in 1995, Billich has made many trips to the capital. He told *Beijing Today* that the theme of his next painting would be a depiction of the scene when Beijing succeeded in its Olympic bid, meant to be a companion piece to *Beijing Millennium Cityscape*.

Autumn Rich with Pageants



Local beauties sign up for the Beijing Miss World China Regional Contest on August 18.

Photo by Lily

By James Liu

This autumn promises to be extra alluring thanks to the four major beauty pageants scheduled to be held in the capital in the next two months.

In the first, on September 6, when 40 beautiful young women will compete in the 2003 New Silk Road Model Beijing Region Finals, a contest organized by the New Silk Road Modeling Company.

The Second National Advertisement Model Contest, which began seeking contestants aged 16 to 26 on August 21, is being sponsored by the Beijing Guanya Advertising Model Agency under the theme of "young, healthy and vigorous." Before Sunday, local beauty queens can sign up for the Beijing Miss World China Regional Contest, scheduled for September. The lucky winners will go on to the fi-

nal pageant in Sanya, Hainan Province.

Another pageant is being put together by the organizing committee of the Miss Commerce competition. Contestants must be 18 to 25 years-old and have mastered at least one foreign language. Liu Fang, director of the organizing committee, told *Beijing Today* that over 90 young women have registered to take part in just the past week.

Binned Plastic Cards Creatively Recycled

By Guo Yuandan

Visitors to the Chinese Science and Technology Museum on the North Third Ring Road last weekend were amazed and amused by a special guest on display, a 1.5-meter-tall model robot forged entirely from discarded plastic cards. The recycled 'bot was at the museum as part of the Master Cup 2003 Chinese Automaton Competition, held from last Thursday to Sunday.

Nearly 10,000 cards made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), were used to create the robot, named 95788. Because it is cheap and easy to manipulate, PVC has become the world's most commonly used base material for plastic cards, such as credit cards, identification cards and prepaid phone cards. However, this plastic is extremely difficult to dispose of, as it breaks down very slowly and releases harmful gases when incinerated.

On June 5, World Environment Day, Gosun Communication, one of China's largest telecommunication companies, launched a campaign to collect used PVC cards, offering one free paper-based Internet card for every three plastic cards turned in.

According to the company, hundreds of millions of PVC cards are discarded every year in China, resulting in thousands of tons of hard-to-dispose-of plastic waste. Song Changdong, chief inspector in Gosun's operations department, told *Beijing Today* Tuesday, "We decided a good way to deal with the problem was to collect discarded cards for reuse. Once word got out, the public seemed enthusiastic and we have already received over 180,000 PVC cards."

Not sure what to do with the remaining cards, Gosun started a new campaign to solicit public suggestions last week.

The China Millennium Monument filed an idea that the cards be put together to form a massive map of China and a huge portrait of the country's 56 minority nationalities. Song said, "We have already begun both pictures. The Chinese map should be finished in mid-September and the minorities picture before National Day."

Fighting Graffiti with Art



Photo by Aily

By Wang Xiaoxiao

Two weeks ago, three local artists long offended by the proliferation of informal advertisements scrawled and posted on telephone poles, bridges and other structures around the city decided to take action to counter the graffiti plague.

The group, made up of experimental painter Xiaomi, 28, and fellow women artists Yang Ping and Meizi, have been covering up the unattractive ads with their own artistic creations. On August 18, Xiaomi painted a whimsical, cartoon self-portrait over ugly ads written on a support for a pedestrian overpass in front of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital in Chaoyang District.

At the same site, Yang and Meizi drew a three-meter tall green plastic bag with red eyes and another abstract work they dubbed *Eyes of the City*.

"No matter how beautiful our paintings are, they're not going to make a big difference in terms of the posting of these ads. We just wanted to make people cluttering the city with these ads aware of their harm and make people think about protecting the environment," Meizi was quoted as saying in a report in the *Beijing Morning Post* on August 19.



Xinhua Photo

Renovated Dino Room Opens at Natural History Museum

By Zhao Hongyi

After one year of reconstruction and an investment of 6 million yuan, the paleontology section of the Beijing Natural History Museum reopened on Tuesday. The renovated space is four times its original size and features a wide range of new, interesting displays.

Pure education has been downplayed in favor of entertainment with the installation of new lights, sound effects and multi-media tools. The purpose of the changes, said Rao

Chengang, curator of the museum, is to "provide visitors a relaxing and interesting environment in which to learn."

Among the highlights of the paleontology section's collection are complete fossils of several dinosaurs and an ancient Asian elephant discovered near the Yellow River.

First built in 1950, the museum has undergone several rounds of expansion and renovation, the next session of which is set to start by the end of this year and eventually add another 50,000 square meters of space.

Stalker Sentenced to Three Years in Jail

By Wang Xiaoxiao

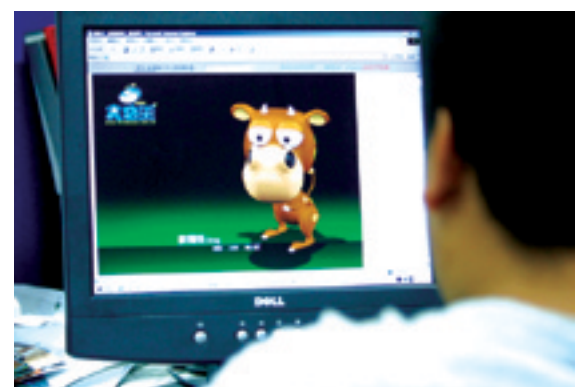
The Haidian District People's Court disclosed on Saturday that a local woman who stalked and harassed a former boyfriend for years has been sentenced to three years in prison.

According to the court, Ms. Yu, under false claims of being a graduate of Beijing Normal University, was fixed up by an informal matchmaker with Mr. Qin, an engineer, in October 1999.

They quickly became lovers, but shortly after Qin decided Yu did not behave like a well-educated person and broke up with her. Subsequently, Yu started to continually harass Qin by calling his home and office, verbally abusing him and his colleagues.

In February 2002, Yu's actions led to her arrest for disturbing public order and she was held in a local police station for a few days. After her release, however, she only intensified her harassment, even pulling such tricks as blocking the keyhole of the door to Qin's apartment with toothpicks and paste.

Before the court, Yu pled not guilty to all charges. The court ordered she undergo psychological testing and results showed she was cognizant of her past actions, meaning she could be held accountable for her behavior.



"Stone Age Pets" like this one take real care to raise to maturity.

Photo by Cao Boyuan

E-Swindle Raises Sticky Legal Question

By Hans Liu

Computer experts at the Fusuijing Police Station in Xicheng District are scratching their heads over how to deal with a recent online "swindle".

Xiao Ming, 16, reported to the station that on August 18, he was robbed of two online game characters called "Stone Age Pets". Around six months ago, Xiao paid nearly 400 yuan to buy both characters and has since spent innumerable hours honing their skills, powers and strength through dedicated play.

On the day in question, Xiao tried to trade the two characters through the Internet for one superior character cultivated by a fellow gamer he did not know personally. The stranger agreed to the trade, but then after receiving the two characters, severed his Internet connection and terminated the transaction without upholding his part of the deal. Xiao has not seen the sneaky player's name on the net since.

The cyber-crime has forced the police to try to find legal precedent. So far, the station has yet to decide whether the stolen characters can be proven to have been Xiao's property and has not been able to locate any existing legal clauses relevant to the case.

Xie Wenzhe, a prominent domestic IT expert, opined that virtual holdings can be evaluated using criteria from the real world, but added that in this case, because there is no clear legal basis for establishing ownership, there is no call for legal action at this point.

Fusuijing police are currently looking for any witnesses or clues to identify the perpetrator of the "e-crime".

Terry Fox Run Set for September 20

By Kate Kui

On Tuesday, the Canadian Embassy announced this year's annual Beijing Terry Fox Run will be held on Saturday, September 20. The event is being organized by the China Cancer Research Institute and the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Beijing Municipal Government in conjunction with the Canadian Embassy and *Beijing Youth Daily*.

The run will begin at 9 am at the north gate of Worker's Stadium and end in the main parking lot of the institute, in the Panjiayuan area, a distance of approximately eight kilometers. Participants are welcome to run, walk, rollerblade, bike, or wheel their way to the finish line.

The inspiration for the event is Terry Fox, a national hero in Canada. In 1977, as a university student, he was diagnosed with bone cancer and his right leg had to be amputated. While in the hospital, Fox was so overcome by the suffering of other cancer patients that he decided to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research.

In 1980, with the help of an artificial leg, Fox realized his vision in a run that was dubbed the "Marathon of Hope". Though he was forced to give up the run halfway, Fox inspired millions of people and raised cancer awareness. After his death in 1981, volunteers all over the world started organizing runs to commemorate his courageous feat and raise money for cancer research.

Last year's Beijing run ended up generating over 700,000 yuan for cancer research in China.

In a speech delivered Tuesday to announce this year's event, Canadian Ambassador Joseph Caron said that the Terry Fox run has become a worldwide event for all people who want to rid the human race of cancer and invited all members of the local community to come out and participate.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Richard Liu, **Email:** info@clubcanada.net, **Website:** www.clubcanada.net



Zhu Xuedong, a four-year-old boy, became the youngest donor in China in 2001.

Getting Organ-ized

Shenzhen enforces first local ordinance about organ donation and transplants

By Su Wei
A regulation intending to clear up organ donation was passed at the 26th session of the 3rd Standing Committee of the Shenzhen People's Congress last Friday. The regulation is the first of its kind in China to deal with this sensitive issue. It has binding stipulations on every aspect of the procedure to ensure legal removal of organs from a dead body. Buying or selling of organs will henceforth be subject to heavy fines and criminal prosecution.

"We encourage the donation of organs, partly as it is a last opportunity to give something back to society," said Zhou Rongsheng, deputy director of the Legislative Committee of Shenzhen People's Congress.

This week, Zheng Qingbo, a 23-year-old graduate, became the first person to agree to be a donor since the regulation was passed. He went to the local Red Cross Association and signed an agreement to donate his corneas.

The regulation stems from the encouraging response to a call for cornea donations four years ago, which was raised by Wu Jiangying, a member of the Standing Committee. She tells Beijing Today that she had the idea after hearing about a Beijing eye doctor who was sued for secretly removing a dead patient's cornea for a transplant operation. "What he did wasn't that wrong, was it? Organ transplants can bring hope to many patients. The point is how to regulate medical behavior while helping people," she said.

Since then, Wu has proposed legislation on cornea donation in 2002 and 2003.

According to Xinhua, by the end of this year, the Ministry of

Health will have completed legislation on brain death, which will help clear up the basis for organ donation. It is also expected that the national regulation, Human Beings' Organ Transplantation Management Rules, will be completed before the end of the year.

Every year, more than one million people in China need organ transplant operations. But only 13,000 are able to have operations due to the lack of donor organs.

Wu Jiangying, a member of the Standing Committee of Shenzhen People's Congress

It is the right time to have such legislation on organ donation, given the demand.

But once the regulation is put into practice, there are certain issues that need to be confronted. For example, brain death is not mentioned in the regulation because at the moment in China there is no legal basis for deciding brain death. Local governments and legislation organizations do not have the power to set out laws relating to human beings' basic rights in this situation. In fact, we all know that if legislation regarding brain death were introduced, there would be more sources for donated organs.

Wu Niansheng, peasant in Gugang Town, Liuyang, Hunan Province, who donated his 18-year-old daughter's corneas in April this year

The regulation on organ donations and transplant operations in Shenzhen provides the opportunity for people to find further value in the lives of relatives who have passed away.

People blamed us for having no heart when we donated our

The regulation is more about regulating medical behavior and enabling doctors to avoid risks.

— Gao Weifeng

daughter's corneas. But it's partly because of our affection for our daughter that we decided to do so. For us, it is still her eyes that look at the world no matter who the corneas are given to.

We would have donated our daughter's heart but doctors did not dare to perform the operation because her heart was still beating, even though they said she was probably brain dead.

Qiu Fazu, Academician of China's Academy of Sciences

It is good and exciting that this regulation has been passed. But Shenzhen should not be the only place to have such a regulation. Wuhan is now preparing something similar but it should be universal in China.

There must be legislation on brain death. The amount of organs donated from patients

in this condition would save the lives of many people.

I want to emphasize that it is good the regulation says organ donation must be free of charge. This prevents illegal organ trading.

Gao Weifeng, an eye doctor who was sued for removing a dead patient's corneas

I still do not think that I did anything wrong. But today, with this new regulation, I would not consider doing it at all.

The regulation passed in Shenzhen still does not provide any solution to the shortage of donor organs nor their transplant under certain conditions.

It seems the regulation is merely calling on people to register for organ donation. In fact, we have been doing that for quite a long time, usually ending up with few organs being received from those registered after their death.

In fact, the regulation is more about regulating medical behavior and enabling doctors to avoid risks.

Also, some people in urgent need of an organ transplant may not be saved since organs are not allowed to be stored. Doctors are confined to not violating the regulation.

Zhao Jianji, of the Ministry of Justice

Although the regulation is a local one it will push the state government to set out a national law. But it will take some time.

As the first of its kind in China, the regulation is certain to be somewhat incomplete. For example, the illegal organ trade may be conducted in a more hidden way due to the emphasis on donation being free of charge.

Guan Delin, director of Urological Department of Beijing Chaoyang Hospital

The regulation is not only progress in Chinese legislation but also a key step for educating people to accept the concept of organ donation.

Although brain death is not mentioned in the regulation, it can promote the legislation for brain death, which in turn will improve and develop the completeness of the clauses for organ donation.

Dr. William Li MD/Physician, Bayley & Jackson Medical Center

There is no doubt that organ transplant operations have given millions of people hope of a new life.

There are, however, millions of patients who cannot receive organ transplants because of poor timing or poor matching of the organs. Even those with a matched organ are not necessarily able to pay the costs of the operation or subsequent treatment. How can we lower the cost of surgery and make healthy organs available to treat more patients? How can we persuade healthy persons to become potential donors? What can we do to control illegal organ trade? There are still many problems on the horizon and that is why people say, "An organ transplant is a rich person's operation."

Problems associated with donors and organs must be solved under laws that regulate organ transplants and "brain death". Public education on the issue of brain death is important. It is important for us to understand the meaning of brain death to help alleviate misguided beliefs.

Readers & Leaders Respect for Privacy

By Shida Zhu

According to the new Rules for Marriage Registration to be put into effect on October 1, Chinese couples who wish to get divorced will no longer have to face the curious, and sometimes even embarrassing eyes of their colleagues.

Till now, those who wished to divorce have had to offer documents certified by the institutions where they worked. This is no longer deemed necessary. So citizens will be freed from institutional power, a kind of social pressure for many of them. The new rules will save them from the embarrassment of everybody in their workplace discussing this purely personal matter and will help avoid the social prejudice that still exists. This is a major shift from institutional control to control by the citizen.

Nor will people have to wait for a month of examination before being granted a divorce by the government, so long as they voluntarily wish to get divorced and have resolved matters relating to patronage of children, property and debts, if any. They can get the legal divorce document right on the spot on the day.

Some people worry that this simplification of the divorce procedure may give rise to a higher rate of divorce. Firstly, a low divorce rate in a society does not necessarily mean it is stable in terms of the family unit. Neither does it mean that marriage quality in that society is good. Facts show that a low rate of divorce, especially in China's rural areas, is primarily because the wives mostly depend on their husbands for basic subsistence though they are not satisfied with their marital status. Secondly, a high rate of divorce, for instance in the United States, does not necessarily mean that the society is unstable in terms of family. It may mean that women enjoy a higher rate of economic independence and are free to pursue their own happiness if they wish.

The procedures for marriage registration will be tremendously simplified too. Those who wish to get married will need to show only their registration card and ID, a written statement of their un-married status and having no blood ties with the spouse in the last three generations. The institutional certification for marriage is likewise eliminated.

Again, some people worry that simplification of marriage registration will give rise to more cases of bigamy. But a person's registration card should be proof enough of their marital status. This is a more human approach. In addition, China will establish a nationwide marriage information network in three years that will screen any possible case of bigamy before the marriage is registered.

The pre-marriage medical checks will also be optional in future, instead of compulsory. This will save the couple lots of time and energy. Owing to a series of complicated procedures, the bride and the bridegroom used to get dead tired and the otherwise happy occasion could turn out to be a hard job. Will this change affect married couples' health, or that of their children? This worry is also unnecessary. Hospitals can see to it that people and their babies are healthy. In any case, as the diseases that would make marriage unsuitable have not been legally defined, it's better for the decision to be in the hands of the couple.

The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs is even considering changing the colors of the marriage and divorce documents. The former is covered in red and the latter in green. The difference in colors itself shows some kind of discrimination against divorce.

As society and the economy develop, citizens are enjoying greater freedom of choice. This move indicates that the government has high confidence in and respect for the self-governing ability of the citizenry. It shows a great leap in terms of legality in Chinese society. The Chinese government is gradually shifting from a role of control to one of service. The new rules protect the citizen's right of freedom to marriage or divorce. Society now shows more respect for personal rights to choose and regards marriage or divorce as a civil liberty. The government approach towards marriage and divorce is now more humanistic and less authoritarian, taking for granted that the citizen is held responsible for his own behavior and the law and may independently govern his own behavior in accordance with the law. This sort of approach is essential for a society ruled by law and is characteristic of a democratic civil society.

The author is director of the department of American social and cultural studies at the Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and vice-president of the Harvard Beijing Club.

We welcome your letters and articles, preferably around 700 words. Please give your full name, current address and phone number (not necessarily for publication). You can email us at comment@ynet.com or fax us at (010) 6590 2525.

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Beijing Today.

SOUND BITES

"Iraq will need tens of billions of dollars in contributions from overseas in the next year to fund the reconstruction effort."

— The top US civil administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, said in an interview published Wednesday. He also told the press that Iraqi revenue would not be enough to cover the bill for economic needs that he described as "almost impossible to exaggerate." It

would cost \$2 billion just to meet current electrical demand and an estimated \$16 billion over four years to deliver clean water to all Iraqis.

"This is only once in a lifetime that I can see another planet. It's really great."

— Stargazer Rebecca Horton told Reuters. In Sydney, the harborside observatory was bathed in red light to

celebrate the proximity of Mars as hundreds of people queued up to look through several telescopes set up on the observatory's grounds. Mars is now the brightest object in the sky after the moon — and will not be this close again until the year 2287.

"What I am resisting is any suggestion that there was some sort of conspiracy, some sort of strategy, some

sort of plan covertly to make his name known. That was not the case."

— Geoff Hoon, Britain's defense secretary, denied there was any "conspiracy" to name a government scientist whose death triggered a major political crisis. Hoon was asked about his role in events surrounding the apparent suicide of Dr. David Kelly at a judicial inquiry in London, chaired by Lord Hutton.

By Jerry Ho



Photo by Photocom

China's New Economy

The concept of the new economy first gained notice in the 1960s, with the differentiation of manual and "knowledge-based" workers in the world. It's also often referred to as the information economy, because of the principal role of information (rather than industrial resources) in creating wealth.

Technological innovation, digital transformation, higher education and skills, open-trended trade, balanced budgets, and global integration are regarded as important factors in the growth of the new economy, according to new research by Beijing University.

There are five categories in particular for measuring its success.

The first is the number of knowledge-based jobs, measured by office work and professional technological work, and the number of people who have received higher education.

The second is globalization, including the proportion of import and export trade to gross domestic prod-

uct, and the proportion of the employment from foreign direct investment to total employment.

The third is economic dynamism and competition, including the proportion of newly set up companies among all companies, and the proportion of GDP contributed by stock market listed companies.

The fourth refers to the transformation to a digital economy. Indicators include the percentage of adults online, the number of registered domain names in a given area measured against the average in China, and the construction of information networks.

The fifth is technological innovation capacity. Indicators include the proportion of high-tech jobs among all jobs, the proportion of science to engineering jobs among all occupations, the number of patents issued and investment in research and development.

In China, the first, the fourth and the fifth categories have a more important role than globalization and economic dynamism.

By Guo Yuandan

Since market-oriented reforms started in 1978, the information-based "new economy" has been charging along in China, driven by the Internet and e-commerce. So how well is it doing, and which areas of China are doing it best? The Research Center for China's Urban and Regional Development, of Beijing University recently released the results of a wide-ranging survey on the new economy in 31 areas of China.

Successful areas

The research hit on a pattern in the new economy, with three regions that are particularly successful for different reasons: Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong. It also focused on three companies: Capital Group, Shanghai Group and Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao Group, which are centered in Beijing, Shanghai and the Pearl River Delta respectively.

"This pattern will be strengthened in the future, representing the development trend of the regional

economy in China," said Yang Kai-zhong, president of the research center, Beijing University.

Beijing: taking the lead

According to the research, Beijing is the most successful area in China in terms of the new economy, thanks to rapid local growth in knowledge-based jobs, the digital economy and capacity for innovation.

Yang points out Beijing has a strong traditional economic foundation as well as strength in science and technology, which has

helped its burgeoning digital economy and industrial transformation. Beijing benefits from a number of national science and technology institutes and universities. Thus the proportion of scientists and engineers in Beijing is higher than in other regions, providing a ready stream of the most qualified personnel. At the same time, Beijing is home to most of the national management bureaus. Besides ministries and commissions of state departments, headquarters of key state companies and state banks, there are many consulting and investment organizations in Beijing.

The research also identifies two weaknesses hindering the development of Beijing's new economy. As an inland city, its globalization and economic dynamism have been trailing coastal cities such as Shanghai and Guangdong. Secondly there is a big lag in development in the areas surrounding Beijing. For example, the new economy in Hebei comes bottom in the 31 areas covered by the research. This will be a stumbling block for the further development of Capital Group.

The researchers suggest that both the central and local government should strengthen development of the new economy, and

solidify Beijing's leading role. The task of developing Zhongguancun Science Park, Central Business District and Finance Street (Jinrongjie) in the near future is highlighted in the research. But it's also necessary for Beijing to develop communication and cooperation with surrounding areas, partly in order to sustain the dominant position of Capital Group.

Shanghai: still the model

Shanghai boasts China's second most successful new economy, falling behind Beijing even though its per capita GDP is double that of the capital.

Nevertheless, Shanghai is still a model of economic development for China. It leads in globalization and economic dynamism, and its surrounding areas are comparatively well developed in terms of the new economy. For example, Zhejiang and Jiangsu rank sixth and seventh in the research rankings.

Of course, Shanghai intends to continue playing an important role in globalization and building itself as a center of trade and finance in East Asia so it has been busy cooperating with surrounding provinces and developing the whole region's economy.

Guangdong: growing fast

Guangdong ranks third. It's doing better than Beijing or Shanghai in terms of globalization. The factors holding it back are the relatively low number of hi-tech jobs and listed companies.

In the early 1990s, Guang-

dong became a pioneering center for the reform and opening up policy, and a strong manufacturing base in China. The strength of Guangdong lies in its development of globalization and innovative industries. However, its development of education and knowledge-based jobs is far behind Beijing and Shanghai. Moreover, progress has been somewhat unbalanced in the province. The new economy focuses almost entirely on the Pearl River Delta. If the research had focused solely on the Pearl River Delta, its status in the new economy would be far higher.

The researchers suggest that Guangdong needs to focus greater efforts on education, human resources and innovation, as well as creating policies to attract domestic and foreign institutes, and improve the general level of education among the local population.

Shaanxi: rising suddenly

In many provinces, development of the new economy stands in marked contrast to per capita GDP. The most notable example is Shaanxi which ranked eighth in the survey in terms of its new economy. However its per capita level ranks 29th. Its knowledge-based jobs and innovation capacity make the difference.

Shaanxi has benefited from government policies which have made it the education and economic center for North West China as well as a leading center for the military industry.

The research underlines that the ranking of the new economy is not consistent with economic strength. It also says that areas with weak economies can grow faster through focusing on the new economy.

The research suggests the further development of Shaanxi mainly depends on a sustained level of human resources. Shaanxi is advised to create an environment conducive for information networks and high technology. Opening up, not just to the outside world but to the rest of China, is also necessary. Trading costs between Shaanxi, an inland province, and more distant areas are too high. Promoting the digital economy is one possible solution for this.

Uncertain future

Competition in the new economy has been turning into competition for personnel and technology since the 1990s. Shanghai and the Pearl River Delta have been attracting personnel through a number of measures. Now both Beijing and Tsinghua universities have founded their own institutes in the south to spread the net wider. It cannot be foreseen which group will have the most excellent human resources in the future.

The research indicates that imbalanced development in different regions creates problems. It's an issue in urgent need of attention.

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Line of Corruption Broken

By Jerry Ho

Early this month, Cheng Weigao, former Secretary of Hebei Provincial Party Committee, was removed from his position and expelled from the Party. According to the Central Disciplinary Committee, during his ten years as party secretary of Hebei Province, Cheng breached Party discipline and was involved in corruption.

Cheng and his secretaries

In 2000, Cheng's two former secretaries, Li Zhen and Wu Qingwu, were arrested and sentenced to death for corruption. They were later given a stay of execution.

Li and Wu both worked for Cheng for many years. Wu became Cheng's secretary when Cheng served as Party Secretary in Nanjing and followed with him to Henan and Hebei Province. When Wu resigned in 1993, Li took over his position at his recommendation. As one taxi driver in Shijiazhuang put it, "Li and Wu have been arrested for corruption, and who could overlook the big shot that backed them up?"

Liu Shanxiang, former Secretary of the Hebei provincial Party disciplinary committee, revealed one example of how Cheng protected his secretaries' illegal activities. In 1993, an investment company got a bank loan of 50 million yuan and quickly transferred the majority of it to Wu and Li. Public procurators soon became suspicious and feared that staff of the company were planning to escape with the money. "I immediately ordered a thorough investigation and asked Cheng Weigao to redeploy Li Zhen to another post. I knew it was Li who was involved," Liu said. But Cheng refused to do so and the investigation did not

even get off the ground. Sure enough, staff of the company fled to foreign countries and 50 million yuan of state money vanished. Li was never punished. Liu Shanxiang, however, was removed from his position.

"You can hardly imagine how powerful Cheng's secretaries were," said an unnamed senior Party official in charge of finance in Hebei. "When Wu Qingwu worked as deputy director of the Party's general office, he demanded an allocation of six million yuan from the Hebei Liaison Office in Shenzhen. I knew that the liaison office was in chaos at the time and turned down the proposal. Wu then went to Cheng directly and got the allocation approved. In the event, the amount was even more than six million yuan," he said.

But it was not just Li and Wu. According to Hou Lei, Chief Provincial Prosecutor, among the 46 persons punished in the case, seven were senior government officials and 14 were middle-level ones.

Cheng and Nanjing Er'jian

The development of Nanjing Er'jian in the Hebei construction market was considered a local miracle, until somewhat earthier reasons for the company's success emerged. The company, based in Nanjing, capital city of Jiangsu Province, where Cheng Weigao used to work as party leader, gained far more construction contracts than other local construction companies. The provincial construction authority has estimated that in the last 10 years, Nanjing Er'jian has contracted 56 projects, including many major governmental buildings. It has made profits of more than 120 million yuan. According to statistics from Hebei Construction Association, the average con-

struction workload per employee of Nanjing Er'jian was nearly 30 times that at local rival Shijiazhuang Construction Company.

Two top leaders of Nanjing Er'jian confessed after being arrested for bribery that they had spent almost 10 million yuan on bribing a list of government officials who were in a position to help them get important projects. Unsurprisingly, Li Zhen and Wu Qingwu were on the list. In 1998, Wu asked Li to help Nanjing Er'jian get the contract for a municipal taxation building. Li contacted supervisors of the project and got them to give the contract to Nanjing Er'jian instead of a local company. For his efforts, Li received US \$50,000.

Cheng's nemesis

When the Central Disciplinary Committee first announced it would be punishing Cheng, attention centered on the man who perhaps had done most to bring him down.

Guo Guangyun, a 61-year-old retired man, was an ordinary official of Shijiazhuang Construction Committee. He began to witness Cheng's unlawful activities when his wife and son invested in the Hebei construction market. When Cheng appointed Li Shanlin as Director of Shijiazhuang Construction Committee, "the whole construction industry fell into chaos," said Guo. With



Cheng Weigao

the increasingly corrupt activities of these people, Guo felt an impulse to expose them.

He sent his first letter to the Central Disciplinary Committee and Hebei Procuratorate on August 17, 1995. In the letter he detailed how Cheng and his associates were "the main cause of the chaos in the Hebei construction industry." But the letter came to Cheng's attention,

and Guo's misery began.

At first Guo was repeatedly interrogated by local discipline committees. For two months, starting in September 1995, he was detained in a watch house for "further investigation" as a "state criminal". The two questions that he was asked most often were whether he wrote the letter and who his supporters were in trying to damage Cheng's reputation.

As Guo recalls, "four policemen stood guard outside my cell and six other detainees stayed by me around the clock." During this time, lamps were kept on in his cell to deprive him of sleep.

In early 1996, he was convicted of libel and sentenced to two-years imprisonment. At that time, he was suffering from diabetes and heart disease. He feared his opponents would try to kill him in the prison. "But the prisoners protected me. One day when I was having my meal, a fellow prisoner said to me, 'We all know why you are here. We will look out for you,'" Guo says.

After staying in prison for nine months, he was granted bail for medical reasons. He began to write open letters using his real name. "I cannot remember how many letters my wife and I sent. We spent several thousand yuan sending those letters," Guo recalled. He went to Beijing many times to visit Party discipline departments to reveal Cheng's unlawful behavior. "I didn't know if my efforts would yield any result, but at least I could warn them to restrain these people's activities," he said.

Guo's unceasing efforts weren't in vain. In April 2000, a special team from the Central Discipline Committee spent six days talking with him. Eventually a case against Cheng was built. At the same time, Guo's punishment and sentence were annulled and his Party membership was returned. On February 13, 2003, he received an official apology from the local Party Committee.

Lanzhou Hot Shot Gunned Down

By Wang Xiaoxiao

Liu Enqian, president of Changqing Real Estate Corporation in Gansu Province, was shot dead on August 17.

Shot dead at home

According to local people, Liu Enqian led a secluded life and did not have many friends.

At 3:50 pm on August 17, Liu was gunned down at his home. The motive for the attack is still unknown.

Local media reports said that police were summoned after gunshots were heard. "Residents of this area immediately realized a serious crime must have been committed. Yao Yuan, vice general director of the Public Security Department of Gansu, hurried to the scene of the crime and cordoned off the area."

Due to the speedy arrival of the police, the murderer was not able to escape and was trapped in Liu's apartment. He shot and injured two of Liu's relatives and tried to use them as hostages as a four-hour standoff with the police began.

No escape

Zheng Minfeng, vice general manager of Changqing Real Estate, arrived at the scene just after the police. He wanted them to tackle the criminal in order to get medical help for the people in the apartment as quickly as possible. But the cops said that would be too dangerous, so the negotiations continued between Yao Yuan and the killer.

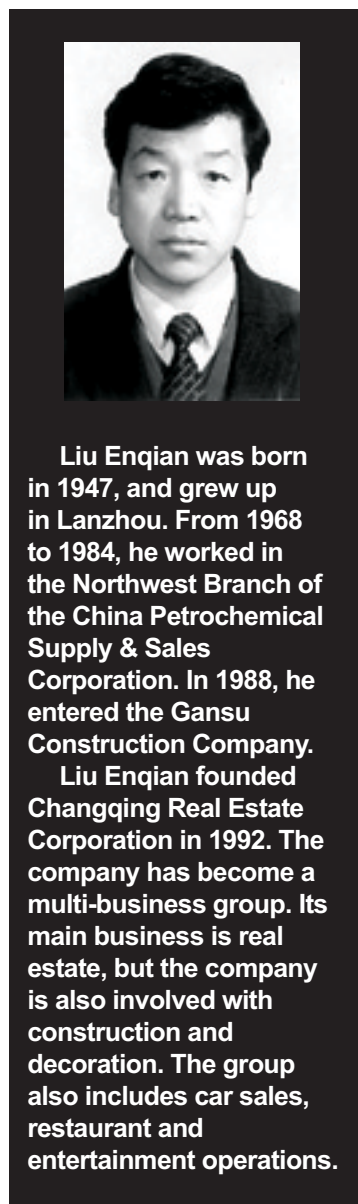
Zheng says that when the murderer realized there was no chance for him to escape, he decided to commit suicide. He called his wife to come to the scene and she later arrived, accompanied by her elder sister. She wept bitterly as she talked to her husband on the telephone.

At about 8 pm, the killer shot himself in the head. The wounded people were immediately taken to hospital. Liu and the murderer were pronounced dead at the scene.

Making money in Hainan

Liu Enqian was born in 1947, and grew up in Lanzhou. From 1968 to 1984, he worked in the Northwest Branch of the China Petrochemical Supply & Sales Corporation. In 1988, he entered the Gansu Construction Company.

During this period, Liu moved to Hainan where he made his fortune. In 1992, Liu founded Changqing Real Estate Corporation. Sources from the local government revealed that Changqing Real Estate was capitalized at over 200 mil-



Liu Enqian was born in 1947, and grew up in Lanzhou. From 1968 to 1984, he worked in the Northwest Branch of the China Petrochemical Supply & Sales Corporation. In 1988, he entered the Gansu Construction Company. Liu Enqian founded Changqing Real Estate Corporation in 1992. The company has become a multi-business group. Its main business is real estate, but the company is also involved with construction and decoration. The group also includes car sales, restaurant and entertainment operations.

lion yuan.

Motive?

Gansu Procuratorate and Wudu County Government revealed that the murderer was named Du Raofeng, who had been a clerk in Wudu County Procuratorate before 1993. He was fired due to his poor performance in the job. In February 1995 Du was about to start work in Wudu County Land Management Bureau but he refused to register in the new work unit and has been unemployed since then.

Local police said they did not yet know the cause of the shooting.

One popular theory has been that Du also killed Liu Siyi, general director of Gansu National Taxation Bureau, in 1999. In that case, Liu's wife, as well as a vice general director and a director of the bureau were also shot dead. Du is said to have

resembled the murderer in the 1999 case.

Another suggestion has been that Liu and Du had had some kind of business connection. Some reports have claimed that Liu owed Du 140,000 yuan and that failure to get the money back led Du to take desperate measures.

But a report in Guangdong-based business newspaper 21CN said this was not a likely explanation as 140,000 yuan would be a relatively modest sum for Liu. The report quotes an eye-witness' saying there had been a quarrel and the sound of items being smashed before the shots were fired.

No enemies

21CN quoted one of Liu Enqian's subordinates as saying that he sometimes refused to share the profits with his partners.

But Liu Naichang, son of the murdered man, said he doubted that revenge could have been the motive. He says his father had always had a very straightforward relationship with others and that he could not think of enemies his father had made.

Liu Naichang says that his father used to go out for walks with his mother along the Yellow River. He never took any bodyguards. The son also said that neither he nor any of the senior management of the company had heard of or seen Du before. "So far I still believe that my father was killed by mistake."

Chasing the money

Analyst Luo Yong, a specialist in the real estate industry for Beijing Yuandong Guanghua Consultation, says China's more successful private entrepreneurs are put at risk by their relative public exposure. The murder of Liu Enqian is another example.

He also says these entrepreneurs often pursue profit at the expense of all other considerations. They sometimes owe people money and neglect to pay it back, particularly if they consider it a trifling amount. This can lead to heated confrontations. "This is also a serious problem in the real estate field, especially in the northwest," Luo added.

Li Haicang, a noted private entrepreneur and vice-chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, was shot dead on January 22 this year.



The scene of the crime

Photos by Photocom

Little Big Man

By Guo Yuandan

Most disabled people get government help, but He Yongjian is an exception. He has a condition which restricted his growth and he's only 1.15 meters tall, even though he is 25. "I was given a certificate of disability by the County Civil Affairs Bureau long ago," he says. "But I never got any welfare. They think I earn too much money to need it."

Happy childhood

He Yongjian, who calls himself Ajian, is a singer in a nightclub in Beijing. In a crowd of tall and handsome actors, he is often taken as a child performer.

Ajian is from Hunan Province. At the age of five, he suddenly got a strange illness. He started twitching and foaming at the mouth. His parents took him to hospital straight away. The doctors were able to put a stop to his fits but he had a fever for the next month and could hardly move. Not knowing what disease it was, the doctor suggested taking Ajian to a hospital in Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province. However, Ajian's parents couldn't afford to do that. Fortunately, Ajian appeared to recover a month later.

Since then, Ajian had the same illness once or twice every year until the age of 15, by which time he was just 0.8 meters tall. Now he is 1.15 meters tall, and he's satisfied with that: "1.15 meters is enough. Anyway I don't expect to grow any taller, because I am already 25."

The doctors suggested that one possible reason for Ajian's condition is that his parents are cousins. But Ajian feels nothing but gratitude for his mother and father. "I love my parents very much. They were never disappointed with me, nor did they put high hopes on me. They think it is the happiest thing that I survived. Especially my mother, she was the most kind-hearted woman in the world. She never shouted at me."

When the time came for Ajian to go to school, his parents were worried the other kids would laugh at him, so they told his older brother to protect him. They went to school and came home together every day. "At that time, I was very clever in the class, and my mother gave me some pocket money everyday. I felt I had a happier childhood than other kids."

Singing for supper

At the age of 14, Ajian had to leave home to go to the middle school in the town. "My mother gave 10 yuan to my roommate on the lower bunk, and asked him to watch out for me. It was my first time to leave home and live alone, and it was hard to get accustomed to the life in the school." So after one year, Ajian left the school and went back to live with his parents. "It was partly because my parents and I didn't see much point in further study. It seemed that because of my height I'd never get that far."

Soon after, the family moved to Changsha, and then Wuhan. "At that time my father had a good income so he didn't need me to work, but I thought I had to stand on my own feet. At 16, I began to sing in public."

At primary school, Ajian was often chosen to sing, and the teacher always praised him. At home, when Ajian and his two brothers had a song competition in the summer

evenings, his mother thought he was the best. So when Ajian grew up, he felt singing could be his way out.

At first Ajian sang in the main snack street in Wuhan, which is a well known gathering place just like Wangfujing in Beijing. Many other performers gave shows there at night. Ajian quickly became well known, because of his height and child's voice. He went out to perform from 10 pm to 4 am every day, singing 100 songs in one night. People paid 10 yuan for three songs. Ajian even gained wealthier admirers who would pay 500 yuan for his unusual performance. At that time, he was making nearly 10,000 yuan a month.

Ajian plied his trade this way for one year. The boss of a performance company who had seen him thought he could turn Ajian into a star so he offered him a two-year contract. In the first year, he brought Ajian with him all around the country to widen his eyes, and helped him to perform in large clubs. At the same time Ajian was required to enter a college to study music. But when he recalls these experiences, Ajian is full of regret. "At that time I was too young to concentrate fully on studying. I always avoided going to the classes. When the boss found I hadn't made any improvement at all, he terminated the contract after one year."

However, this experience helped Ajian get into performing in nightclubs. He says it's a purer experience than performing in the street. "In the outdoor venues I just sold my voice, but in a club someone can appreciate your music."

Ajian's unusual appearance has continued to make him popular in cities around the country. Since the age of 16, he's performed in venues in Guangdong, Jilin, Shijiazhuang and Macao. "As a singer like me, it is the most terrible thing if no club invites you to perform. It means you are old-fashioned. I'm not worried about not being invited though, because I have worked very hard for today's achievements."

I am a man

In 2000, Ajian married a girl from his village, just as his parents hoped he would. But partly because he was always away from home, the marriage soon hit problems. The couple got divorced in 2002, and Ajian paid his ex-wife 50,000 yuan in alimony. The brief union produced a son who is now two years old. Talking about his son, Ajian can't help smiling. "He's nearly as high as my neck already and he's not afraid of anyone except me. I hope he will be healthy, and can do whatever he wants to do."

Now Ajian has a new girlfriend, a beautiful 20-year-old dancer who's a little taller than him at 1.62 meters. "She chased me actually," says Ajian. "I felt she was kind-hearted and open. We have been together for two years, but we are not ready to get married. Her family doesn't agree with her marrying me, and I won't consider it until she is 25. After all, she is so young.

"I never care about other people's opinions, which are meaningless to me. I sing my songs everyday, doing my best to enjoy my life."

— Ajian

And given my situation, I'm not going to be selfish."

Ajian's still making a good living. He came to Beijing to perform in a large nightclub on July 22 this year. "Every night I need to prepare two songs, and I can earn 30,000 yuan every month. I am proud of myself for this. Though I am short, I am able to do better than many others. Now I must support my parents, son, niece and girlfriend as well as myself. I can give them a sense of security." Instead of worrying about him, his family look up to Ajian these days, seeing him as a man of experience.

Behind the happiness, however, Ajian has been suffering the worst worry he has known. His beloved mother was diagnosed with cancer two years ago. "I never thought she would become ill. The moment I found out, I took her to Changsha so she could have an operation. But it was not successful." Sadly, his mother passed away this week.

Ajian has made friends all over the country but he

says he doesn't know many of them that well. "People change day by day. I cherish friends in my life, but I will have to find new ones in future. I'm not going to be able to keep going around the country singing much longer. Being young is important on the stage. Maybe when I'm 30 I will have earned enough money to rest at home and stay with my family."

During the whole interview, Ajian kept smiling, except when talking about his mother. He said he could answer any question, that no subject was taboo for him. He says he has always lived a happy life. "I never care about other people's opinions, which are meaningless to me. I sing my songs everyday, doing my best to enjoy my life. My parents and I think living should be a happiness. We have no reason to worry about life. But perhaps I would have preferred to have grown normally. After all, it's pretty hard to find my size of clothes."



Photo by Photocom

Ancient Scroll Returns

Lost from the Forbidden City for 81 years, a Sui Dynasty calligraphy scroll is now back on display at its rightful home

By Iris Miao

The newly-purchased Sui Dynasty anonymous calligraphy work *Chu Shi Song* (Ode to Troops Departing to Resist Enemies), along with 15 treasured ancient calligraphy works and rubbings, is ending its six-day exhibition at the Palace Museum today.

Chu Shi Song, taken from the Forbidden City by the last Emperor Puyi in 1922, was put up for sale at this year's China Guardian spring auction. After receiving advice that work was genuine from a specially formed panel of the nation's most authoritative experts in ancient painting and calligraphy, the Palace Museum announced the purchase of the scroll for 22 million yuan on July 10.

The announcement immediately provoked a fierce debate over the authenticity and value of the work, which ranks as the third most expensive ancient Chinese painting or calligraphy work ever purchased.

A symposium hosted last Friday by the Palace Museum provided sound evidence of the scrolls identity and value by experts from both the Palace Museum and the Shanghai Museum, which also had expressed interest in acquiring it.

Responding to doubts over the scroll's authenticity, Wang Qingzheng, vice director of the Shanghai Museum, said at the symposium that these doubts arose because few people have a good understanding of the history of Chinese calligraphy and the importance of this scroll, and because too many opinionated "experts" drew conclusions based on photos of the scroll, rather than examining the real thing.

Its value and importance to the Palace Museum was unarguable, Wang said, and it was only right and proper for the Palace Museum to make the purchase. "The Song Dynasty recorded only two scrolls written by the great Western Jin Dynasty calligrapher Suo Jing; the *Xuanhe* copy and the *Shaoxing* copy. The *Xuanhe* copy was lost in the early years of the Qing Dynasty. The *Shaoxing* copy is the only work left. What should the Palace Museum buy if it doesn't buy such a work?"

Peerless works

Along with *Chu Shi Song*, the Palace Museum brought out some of the most valued pieces in its collection for the exhibition. *Pingfu Tie* by Lu Ji of the Western Jin

Dynasty (265 - 316 AD), *Zhongqiu Tie* by Wang Xianzhi of the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317 - 420 AD), *Boyuan Tie* by Wang Xun of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, and Eastern Jin Dynasty calligraphy "Saint" Wang Xizhi's *Lantingxu Tie*, copied by Feng Chengsu of the Tang Dynasty (618 - 907).

Among these, *Zhongqiu Tie* and *Boyuan Tie*, two of the calligraphy works listed by Emperor Qianlong as his three favorites, was taken from the Forbidden City by Puyi, to reappear in Hong Kong in 1956. The then Premier Zhou Enlai took the extreme step of authorizing the expenditure of 470,000 yuan to get the two treasures back. China's total revenue that year was only 21.3 billion yuan.

A missing piece

In fact what the Palace Museum purchased for 22 million yuan on this occasion was only the beginning strip of the hand scroll, containing a forged piece of Song Dynasty Emperor Gaozong (1127 - 1131)'s handwriting on Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644) paper, as well as the main text from the Sui Dynasty.

A postscript bearing an anonymous inscription and an inscription by Zhang Ling of the Yuan

Dynasty (1271 - 1368) was sold six years ago at a China Guardian auction for 100,000 yuan. It is now in the hands of a Shanghai collector surnamed Lu. Rumor has it that this Mr. Lu bought the second half of the treasure for 250,000 yuan.

Special purchase fund

Wang Jiabin, chief of the Education, Science and Culture Department of the Finance Ministry was involved in the whole process of the purchase of *Chu Shi Song*. "It is a very good price for an ancient work like this," he told *Beijing Today*.

Last October, the state government established a 50 million yuan special fund for purchasing important antiques and ancient artworks. The first piece bought using this fund was the scroll *Ode to Yan-shan*, by Song calligrapher Mi Fu for 29.9 million yuan, now also kept by the Palace Museum. *Chu Shi Song*, however, was purchased using the Palace Museum's ticket income, not the special fund.

When: until 4:00 pm today

Where: Painting and Calligraphy Hall, west of Baohe Dian (Preserving Harmony Hall), Palace Museum (Forbidden City).

Last of the Spring Auctions

By Iris Miao

The last hammer of the SARS-delayed spring auctions will be raised at the Jingguang Center from August 30 to September 1, as Hanhai Auctions present a total of 1,700 lots in six categories. The categories are Modern and Contemporary Chinese Painting and Calligraphy, Figure Painting, Ancient Chinese Painting and Calligraphy, Rare Books, Jade Ware, and Chinese Works of Art.

The Modern and Contemporary section presents over 80 market darlings such as Qi Baishi, Zhang Daqian, Fu Baoshi and Wu Changshuo.

Fu Baoshi's *Listening to Music* was painted in the 1940s, during the painter's so-called Jingangpo Period, when he was living at Jingangpo in the west of Chongqing. The delicately painted scroll, which depicts the legendary Emperor Shun listening to his two empresses playing the qin and flute, has a relatively low estimate of 200,000 to 250,000 yuan. In fact, low estimates seem to be a characteristic of this auction.

The other conspicuous feature is the arrangement of the Jade Ware special. The 220 lots are divided into themes such as flawless jade, styles favored by Emperor Qianlong, Islamic impact, ritual articles, media between man and heaven and jade ware as a symbol of military power. It includes twenty lots from the Hongshan Culture and Longshan Culture of the Neolithic Age (circa 4,500 - 2,000 BC) and several ritual artifacts of the Shang Dynasty (16th - 11th Century BC), the largest ever quantity of jade ware made before the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD) put up for auction.

The focus of the porcelain lots is on the famous kilns of the Tang, Song and Yuan dynasties, usually called *lao yao* (old kiln) by collectors and dealers. Though the Qing porcelain has set

astronomical figure in the art market worldwide, in recent years, the international market for the old kiln artifacts has also surged.

The 135 pieces of figures paintings include many of the famous painters from the Ming and Qing dynasties. This is the first time this style of painting has been auctioned as a special category.

The other two major auction houses in Beijing both achieved record sales volumes last month. Huachen ended with 60 million yuan, while China Guardian set a record for the entire mainland market, with a sales volume of 194 million yuan.

On July 10 and 11, Hanhai's medium scale auction, with only two specials; paintings and calligraphy, and Chinese works of art, closed with an exceptionally high sales rate of 93 percent. The works of art auction, with 1,340 lots, lasted a marathon 15 hours, from 9 am to 12:30 pm, a warm-up performance that raises even further anticipation about the coming auction.

Hanhai Auctions:

Preview: Aug. 27 - 29

Auction: Aug. 30 - Sep. 1

Venue: 3F, Ballroom, Jingguang Center

Zhonghongxin Auctions:

Preview: Aug. 30 - Sep. 1

Auction: Sep. 2

Venue: 2F, Ballroom, Beijing Swissotel



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By Darlene Lee

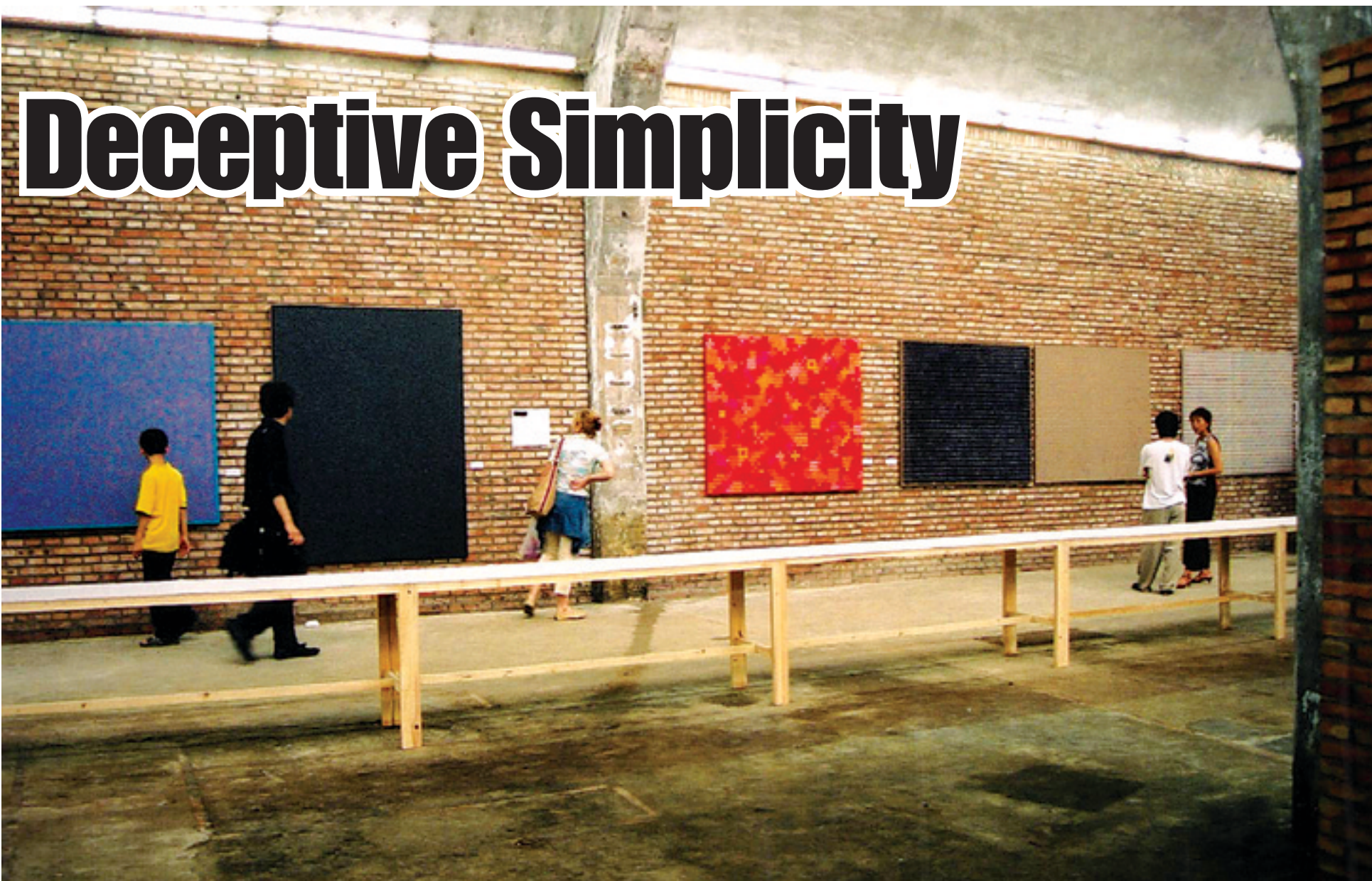
It is tempting to write off the new show *Prayer Beads & Brushstrokes* as typifying the root of public indifference to Chinese contemporary art. The over 50 square or rectangular works on display conspicuously lack visual pyrotechnics, without even a dash of bold color to catch the eye. But stopping there would be a mistake. The uniformly simple appearance of the artwork emanates from a powerful tradition and encapsulates a 20-year-long message from leading Chinese curator Li Xianting.

Li has been hugely influential in the development of contemporary Chinese art since the late 1970s, as evidenced by this year's largest opening turnout at the Beijing Tokyo Art Projects (BTAP) last month. Executive Director Tabata Yukihiro decided to work with Li Xianting well before BTAP opened in October of last year, noting "I think Mr. Li's most important influence has been the introduction of Chinese contemporary art to the West."

Via his multiple roles as curator, lecturer, author, critic, editor and forum organizer, Li has always emphasized the vital importance of people's roots. "I have consistently championed the need to find our own voice, extending our ink and wash tradition beyond Western models," he notes. "In general, China's abstract ink and wash painting has not advanced beyond the language models of Western abstract and abstract expressionist art, and its aesthetic consciousness and tonal quality have also made little progress. How much further can abstract ink and wash painting go?"

This show is, in part, a response to that question. In 1985, Li published his first answer in the form of the essay *Pure Abstraction is a Logical Development for Chinese Ink and Wash Paintings*. He recalls, "I optimistically hoped that traditional Chinese art could develop a unique kind of abstract art, and in that essay I emphasized the significance of process." Artists like Ding Yi took up the challenge, exploring the limits of ink wash abstraction with his signature crosses for nearly 20 years.

Li coined the phrase "complexity of cumulative simplicity" to describe this process, creating art through simple repetitive manual actions, and sees this genre as being both spiritually aligned with Chinese culture as well as a uniquely Eastern kind of minimalism. "Likewise, the practice of chanting the same mantra over and over again while meditating is a way to return to tranquility," says Li. Works selected from the 19 artists in the show all emphasize process over final result. Each artwork emerges slowly



"The meditative aspect of the abstraction process often takes on a healing aspect, a process that transforms the artist while creating." - Li Xianting



The exhibition is being shown in the cavernous halls of the Beijing Tokyo Art Projects.



Li Xianting (far right) presides over the opening ceremony for *Prayer Beads on July 26.*

Photos provided by BTAP

ly through a painstaking process of small, seemingly insignificant actions, some taking months to complete.

According to Li, China will only become truly international when it is able, through its artists, to give traditional Chinese philosophies a dynamic place in contemporary society. "We often say that we have 5,000 years of history, but how many have ever studied the ancient texts? It's not about retreating to the past, it's about deepening out cultural roots to get a broader perspective of Chinese culture," he explains. "So rather than be swayed by the latest aesthetic fashion or gravitating towards superficial Chinese elements, it's about knowing who we really are and in this way contributing to the new world order."

Du Jie's series of small, square, lightly-colored canvasses illustrate this point well. Her extremely precise, uninterrupted, twisting and turning lines recall a traditional Chinese pattern of a continuous, unbroken line. Li says that through the slight differences in thickness of line, "you can feel the changes from smooth to dragging motion, and experi-

ence the emotions revealed by the artist while her lines were in motion." Indeed, all of the works on display in this show incorporate this meditative quality, an invitation for the viewer to look deeper and find tranquility.

Four years in the planning, *Prayer Beads & Brush Strokes* aims high. "I hope this exhibit will serve as a catalyst, to help us find our own voice. The meditative aspect of the abstraction process often takes on a healing aspect, a process that transforms the artist while creating. This is a unique link to Buddhist tradition, the performing of small seemingly pointless tasks for the much greater goal of spiritual liberation," adds Li.

Yukihiro concurs, "This exhibition has the potential to positively impact the Chinese contemporary art scene, particularly given Mr. Li's influence. It creates the space for all of us in Asia to ponder his ideas. The more art globalizes, the more we have to understand ourselves in order to maintain a clear sense of our identity."

"It's most important for us to recognize that we are not European or American but Asian.

And understanding each other in Asia is key. Art reflects our life while reminding us of where we have come from and where we are going," he concludes.

Achieving these worthy goals will depend largely on how much the audience is willing to work for their own enlightenment. There are no easy visual joyrides here. Reading the curator notes in the nicely-designed exhibition catalog is a much recommended start, and viewers are advised to take a bit of extra time with each work. Unlike the essentially selfish act of meditation for one's own enlightenment, Li and Yukihiro have created an opportunity for many patient people to reach, at least for a while, a higher plane of awareness.

Where: Beijing Tokyo Art Projects, 4 Jiuxiangqiao Road, Dashanzi, Chaoyang District **When:** 10:30 am - 18:30 pm, Tuesday to Sunday, Monday off, till October 10, as a satellite exhibition of the coming Beijing International Art Biennale. **Tel:** 8457 3245

American-born Chinese artist **Darlene Lee** is a frequent contributor to *Beijing Today*.

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Terminator Debuts on China Cinema Screens

By Chen Ying

Chinese movie fans finally have the chance to see Arnold Schwarzenegger in his role as the "terminator" in the cinema, though the movie series is well known here by way of DVD.

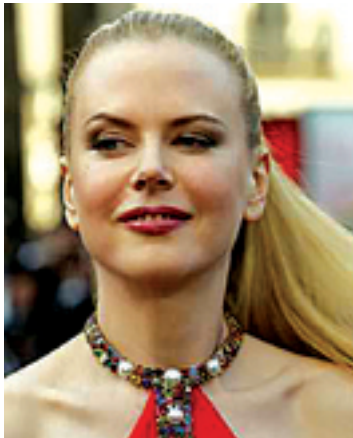
Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines premiered Tuesday night at the New Century Cinema of the Oriental Plaza. After taking a dozen years off from playing his most famous character, Schwarzenegger returns to his robotic ways in the movie.

Though director of the first two terminator movies, James Cameron, was not involved in "T3," the new director, Jonathan Mostow, seemed content to do little more than continue in Cameron's footsteps. While Kristanna Loken's "fembot" is not a bad idea, the film is noticeably lacking in the innovation that made T2 one of the best sequels ever. It is difficult to escape the impression that the movie is primarily a money making vehicle, and a successful one at that. It cost US \$175 million to make, and has already grossed more than \$350 million worldwide.

Distributor Huaxia Film has erected large-scale advertisements in Guangzhou, Xi'an, Zhengzhou, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai and Chengdu, and the two robot models used in the movie, which were displayed at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, will arrive in Beijing in early September.

But as pop singer Na Ying commented at the premiere party, most people are just curious about whether the candidate for the governorship of California can still conquer the unconquerable.

WORLDWIDE



Nicole Kidman

Movie-Mania Grips Venice

Venice's 60th Film Festival kicked off on Wednesday.

Hollywood royalty including Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn, Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones were among those set to walk on the red carpet running from the five-star Excelsior Hotel on the shores of the Lido to the festival's traditional art deco cinema.

Twenty feature films will vie for the coveted Golden Lion to be awarded on September 6 and another 18 films will face off in the more experimental "Upstream" section. A total of more than 140 movies, many of them world premieres, will be screened.

"Never before has the festival received so many film offers to evaluate," Moritz de Hadeln, director of the Venice competition for the second year running, said of the line-up. (Reuters)



Angelina Jolie

Tomb Raider Star Makes Plea for Chechen Refugees

Oscar-winning actress and Tomb Raider star Angelina Jolie made a personal plea to the Russian government Sunday not to force thousands of Chechen refugees in Ingushetia to return to their war-torn homeland.

Jolie, a goodwill ambassador for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, was speaking at the end of a four-day visit to Russia, including Ingushetia, which is home to about 80,000 Chechens who have fled fighting and abuse from soldiers but are now under pressure from Moscow to go home for a local leadership election.

"Voluntary repatriation is only if you've given people an option of housing and safety and you don't take away their food or shelter," Jolie told a news conference. "I am asking you today to make sure they have that option." (Reuters)

Meryl Streep Plays Auctioneer

Academy Award-winner Meryl Streep served as auctioneer last week to help sell artwork to benefit survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Streep took the stage before a crowd of about 1,500 on Saturday for the black-tie benefit for Arts for ACT, the annual auction for Abuse Counseling and Treatment.

Among the artists whose works were included was Streep's husband, sculptor Don Gummer, whose "Above the Cave" sold for US \$37,500.

"I'm going to try and do two things: Sell a lot of art and try not to embarrass him," Streep said.

The auction raised US \$296,795. Including ticket sales and a silent auction, the fund-raiser exceeded US \$400,000, ACT's executive director Jennifer Benton said. (AP)



Meryl Streep

Gerard Depardieu's Son Detained over Shooting

The son of French film star Gerard Depardieu was detained by police in the French coastal resort of Trouville on suspicion of firing a gun during an argument with another man.

Guillaume Depardieu, also an actor, allegedly threatened a man with a pistol last Friday during an altercation near the port in Trouville, prosecutors claimed.

"It's only thanks to the intervention of a witness who quickly threw his arm up (to push the gun aside) that the shot went into the air," public prosecutor Philippe Peyroux told AFP. (AFP)

OJ: Cash Helped Secure Acquittal

O.J. Simpson says that without the money to pay for a "dream team" of lawyers, he would not have been acquitted of murder charges.

In an interview with Playboy magazine nine years after his trial, Simpson repeatedly vowed he was innocent of killing his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman.

"I didn't commit the crime. That is why I got off," he said. "I feel in my heart that I got off because I was innocent. But I don't know if I could have proven my innocence if I didn't have the money. And that's a shame. Yes, it is a shame that in this country it costs so much to get good representation." (AP)

Good Person Shines in Open Air Performance

By Iris Miao

As the opening performance of the Youth Maiden Work Show Project, sponsored by Beijing People's Art Theater, Bertolt Brecht's *The Good Person of Sichuan* was a surprisingly mature and highly professional production, considering the all-student cast.

Directed by 25-year-old Huang Ying, the cast consisted of amateur performers from the University Students' Theater Troupe (formerly the North China Troupe of Beijing Normal University), who

showed promising talent, despite their age. Actress Bian Lingzhuzi stood out in the role of Sui Da, the evil cousin incarnate of "good woman" Shen Dai. Her control of dialogue, body language and appearance gave little hint of the fact that she was first year law student of Beijing Normal University, for whom acting was just a hobby.

The open air venue would have challenged even a professional troupe, but the dedication and enthusiasm of the entire cast was never in question during the

100-minute performance.

Tamura Yoko, a doctoral student in culture studies at Kobe University, now studying writing at the Central Academy of Drama, was familiar with Brecht's original script and watched the play with satisfaction, commenting after that the student cast, "did a very, very good job in interpreting Brecht."

The performance will be repeated at 3 pm on September 1 in front of the Capital Theater in Wangfujing. For tickets contact 13001181609.



Photo by Miao Yajie

Director Fights Porn Claims

By Hans Leu

The director of a film that was entered in last year's Stockholm Film Festival is suing the distributors of the DVD version over their claims on the cover and in promotional posters that the film is "pornographic."

The introduction on the DVD cover claims the film, *A Dream of Youth*, had been banned for three years in China owing to its pornographic content.

Zhaoyan Guozhang, the director, is suing the four distributors for violation of his reputation. He told *Beijing Youth Daily* that the film was only completed in March 2002, that the Bureau of Broadcasting, Television and Film had permitted the film's participation in the Stockholm Film Festival. "It is ridiculous to claim that the recently finished film had been banned for three years!" he said.



Lü Jianmin, the manager of the Beijing distribution agent and one of the defendants, admitted that the promotion had been somewhat "improper." As to why such claims had been

made, he said it was necessary in order to survive in the depressed film market in China.

Zhaoyan Guozhang says money is not the issue, he only wants to help those involved in the production of the film to get the recognition they deserve.

"In the posters and on the cover, you can find pictures and descriptions suggesting sexual content that has nothing to do with the film," he said. "However, the production team and film crew receive no mention!"

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Photos by Sina.com

Bridging Borders Through Sport



Chinese footballer Sun Jihai (left) of British club Manchester City clashed with Steven Reid of Blackburn in a Premiership match on Sunday.

Photo by Photocome

By Hou Mingxin

The Los Angeles Olympics of 1984 was an important event for this country, as it marked China's reentry into international sports after decades of athletic isolation. Since then, increasing numbers of Chinese athletes have taken their games into the world arena and China has emerged as a sports powerhouse. More recently, prominent domestic professional athletes have started offering their talents abroad, giving the world a clearer picture of China's sports development while also bringing back with them experience, practices and theories from overseas to boost athletics at home.

China's "Walking Great Wall"

Introduced to China in 1895, basketball has in more recently years emerged as one of the most popular sports in this country. Hoops fever went up several notches last year, when 2.26-meter-tall Yao Ming was the first pick in the National Basketball Association (NBA) draft and had an outstanding rookie season. There are currently four Chinese players in the NBA, collectively referred to as China's "Walking Great Wall", a nickname first given three of the massive men when they were stars for the Chinese Olympic basketball team in 2000.

Yao Ming Undoubtedly the most famous Chinese athlete in the world, 23-year-old NBA superstar Yao Ming was the picked by the Houston Rockets as the first choice in the 2002 draft, making him the first foreigner not to have played college basketball in the US to go No. 1. Yao had immediate impact on the struggling Rockets, and the towering center quickly became a popular star on and off the court.

The numbers from his phenomenal first season say it all. Averaging 13.5 points, 8.2 rebounds and 1.74 blocks over 82 games, Yao was a shoe-in for NBA All-Rookie First Team honors. He especially drew praise for his remarkably quick feet, selfless play, and blocking ability, as he rejected three or more shots in 26 games in which, by no coincidence, Houston had a 22-4 record. Perhaps most impressive, he was voted starting center for the Western Conference in the 2003 NBA All-Star Game after ranking fourth overall in all-star voting, and over the course of the regular season was twice named Western Conference Rookie of the Month.

In May, Yao was named the newcomer of the year at the Laureus World Sports Awards.

As the NBA goes increasingly international, drawing talent and fans from around the world, Yao is arguably its most important foreign

player, thanks to his enormous global following and clout in his massive home market.

Wang Zhizhi The trailblazer for Chinese in the NBA, Wang became the first Chinese, even Asian, player ever in the league when he joined the Dallas Mavericks in 2001. Though his NBA career has not been as sensational as that of Yao Ming, there is no denying the significance of Wang's move to the NBA for Chinese basketball players and fans.

Prior to joining the Mavericks, Wang led the Bayi Rockets to six straight Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) championships, and was honored as one of the "50 Top Stars of New China Basketball" by the league. In 2000-01, Wang was named a CBA All-Star and averaged 24.9 points, 11.4 rebounds and 1.8 blocked shots per game.

However, in October 2002, the 2.15-meter star was dismissed from the national team for "lack of discipline" after he opted to continue his career in the US rather than go on national duty and play for the Chinese team at the Asian Games and World Championships.

Bateer This 28-year-old, 2.11-meter Mongolian giant was the second Chinese player in the NBA, signed by the Denver Nuggets in 2002, but has since gone on to bigger and better. After being traded to San Antonio in October 2002, he was part of that team as they went on to win the NBA championship. And following the retirement of San Antonio's great David Robinson, he is likely to get far more minutes during the next regular season.

Xue Yuyang The latest Chinese star to enter the NBA, 20-year-old Xue Yuyang was drafted by the Dallas Mavericks this year. The 2.12-meter tall center is the fourth Chinese player in the league and faces high expectations now that domestic players have proven they have what it takes to play with the world's best basketballers.

Soccer heroes

Football is by far the most popular sport in China, even though the country has only had a professional league for ten years. National pride is closely tied to the ups and downs of the Chinese team, as seen by the widespread ecstasy over their entry into the 2002 World Cup finals and then general disappointment with their less-than-stellar performance.

Nowadays, almost every first division club in the Chinese Series A Soccer League imports talent from overseas, including such names as former top English star Paul Gascoigne. At the same time, as quality of play improves, more and more Chinese players are

heading abroad. Yang Chen, Sun Jihai, Li Tie, Fan Zhiyi, Shao Jiayi and others have moved to European soccer leagues, where they have developed skills that made them keys to the national team's World Cup qualification.

Yang Chen In July 1997, Yang Chen became the first Chinese footballer to play in Europe when he moved from the Beijing Guoan team to Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt.

In August 1998, as a 24-year-old, Yang blazed another trail as the first Chinese player to score a goal in a European league, in that case Germany's first division. Another goal netted by the Chinese forward in June 1999 proved crucial to keeping the team from sliding out of that division.

In the first half of this year, Yang returned to China and was grabbed by Shenzhen Jianlibao, the runner-up last season. With the signing of Yang, the club is poised to make a serious run at its first league title.

Sun Jihai On August 14, boosted by Chinese defender Sun Jihai's first goal in European club competition, Manchester City thrashed Welsh part-timers TNS Llansantffraid 5-0, marking a comfortable return to European match play in the UEFA Cup qualifiers.

In February 2002, at age 26, Sun transferred to English first division club Manchester City with a £2 million deal, making him the first Chinese in the English Premiership. He netted his first goal for the club in October 2002.

Sun Jihai has been a regular fixture on the Chinese national team since 1996, when he was only 19 years old, and he is arguably the best right fullback in China. Before moving to England, he played for Dalian Shide, the top football club in China.

His talent drew European interest five years ago, and in August 1998 he and former national team captain transferred to British club Crystal Palace.

Li Tie Early this month, Li Tie signed a three-year contract with Everton in the English Premiership, after spending last year with the team on loan from China's Liaoning Bird squad.

Fan Zhiyi Strong, fast and with excellent aerial ability, national team central defender and captain Fan Zhiyi is a versatile player who can play in practically every position except in goal.

In his mother club Shanghai Shenhua's championship-winning season in 1995, Fan was among the divisional top scorers with 15 goals to his credit.

Fan smashed the transfer record for a Chinese player in 1998 when he was transferred to Eng-

lish first division side Crystal Palace for £700,000. At Palace, Fan played in midfield as well as in his more familiar central defense position.

After securing World Cup qualification for China in October 2001, Fan was transferred to Scottish Premiership outfit Dundee FC for £350,000.

In May 2002, Fan Zhiyi won the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Player of the Year Award.

Shao Jiayi Shao Jiayi was first known in China for his 20-year-old ascension into the national team under the Bora Milutinovic-led bid for China's first-ever World Cup trip.

Magic "Milu" made it, and Shao's World Cup dream - having haunted the minds of his predecessors for decades - came true. The following year, 2003, marked another significant step in Shao's sports career: he was transferred from Beijing Guoan to TSV Munich 1860. There, the left-footed Shao got an opportunity to work with the legendary German star Thomas Hasler, also a lefty.

On May 9, 2003, Shao became the second Chinese player ever to score a Bundesliga goal when he curled in a free kick in a game with FC Energie Cottbus.

Unfortunately, Shao's future is at risk following a severe ligament injury suffered in July that could incapacitate him for about six months.

Powerful ping-pongers

Table tennis is not merely child's game in this country, it is a veritable sport generating tremendous interest. According to a survey conducted by the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA), around 10 million people in China play table tennis frequently, over 30,000 children have received formal ping-pong training at sports institutes, and nearly 2,000 players have registered with the association. Since the Chinese national table tennis team was established 50 years ago, China has become a dominant force in the world game, bagging over 120 championships in international events and bringing in the largest share of China's Olympic golds.

This country has nurtured hundreds of world-class players, many of whom have gone on to play in countries all over the world. They have spread experience from China's successes, while also contributing new table tennis skills to the domestic game and leading the way for the development of the sport.

Ding Song Former national team member Ding Song recently returned to China to play for the team again after furthering

his table tennis career in Germany for five years.

The return of the 32-year-old is primarily due to the success of Korean Joo Se Hyuk at the 47th World Championships in May. The relatively unknown defensive player stunned the world by finishing runner-up in the men's singles competition, forcing the Chinese team to seek solutions to lasting problems in facing Joo and other defensive specialists before the 2004 Olympics. Ding, called China's "King of the Choppers", will play a key part in the team's new strategy.

Feng Zhe Another former Chinese national team player, Feng Zhe, 28, a Shanghai native, will represent Bulgaria at the 2004 Olympic Games. She was recruited to the Chinese team in 1998 and won the mixed doubles title at the 45th world championships in 1999.

Ni Xialian Before a member of the national women's squad, Ni Xialian now plays for Italy's Pink D'aosta club.

Geng Lijuan A former Chinese national squad player, Geng Lijuan played on the teams that won group gold at the 38 and 39th World Championships and later moved to Canada.

Chinese divers overseas

China's national diving team is almost equally as revered as its table tennis squad and has dominated the gold medal tally at seven straight Asian Games since 1978. Powerful and disciplined Chinese divers have also won 14 Olympic golds in their five appearances since 1984.

With their success, a growing number of Chinese diving stars have taken the plunge and headed abroad.

Liang Boxi, first head coach of the Chinese national diving team, Gao Min, the Chinese "Queen of Diving", and Li Yihua, former world champion, are all coaching in Canada, while former Chinese national members Li Kongzheng, Chen Wenbo, and Li Hongping are working in the US.

China's first F1 driver?

Grand Prix glory may be in the future for 19-year-old Cheng Congfu, after he became the first Chinese driver signed by the powerful Formula 1 team West McLaren Mercedes earlier this month.

McLaren has agreed to provide Cheng with nearly £150,000 per year to sponsor his training and racing, giving rise to speculation that he could become the first Chinese driver to enter the F1 circuit.

Formula One is fast winning new fans in this country, and a new track being built in Shanghai has a shot at becoming host of an annual Grand Prix race from 2004 to 2010.

By Joel Kirkhart

In the immortal words of the late, great Bob Marley, "Herb is a plant." Indeed, but herbs are so much more. In many kinds of foods, fresh herbs can add new layers of flavor to basic ingredients without adding any calories or fat. Herbs can be brewed into tasty, refreshing natural teas and even be used to promote health and treat and prevent medical problems.

Herbs have been used in foods and medicines the world over for thousands of years. Among their earliest known applications is the use of basil and thyme in the ancient Egyptians' complex embalming recipe. Today, herbs, fresh and dried, are important parts of nearly all the world's cuisines, though perhaps are most closely associated with the food of the Mediterranean, Mexico and other parts of Central America, and Southeast Asia. Chinese cooking makes limited use of fresh herbs, generally just cilantro (*xiangcai*) and fennel (*huixiang*), but fortunately for local gourmets, it is now possible to find a surprising range of fresh herbs (not including that to which Marley was referring) in leaf and whole plant form at a few places around town.

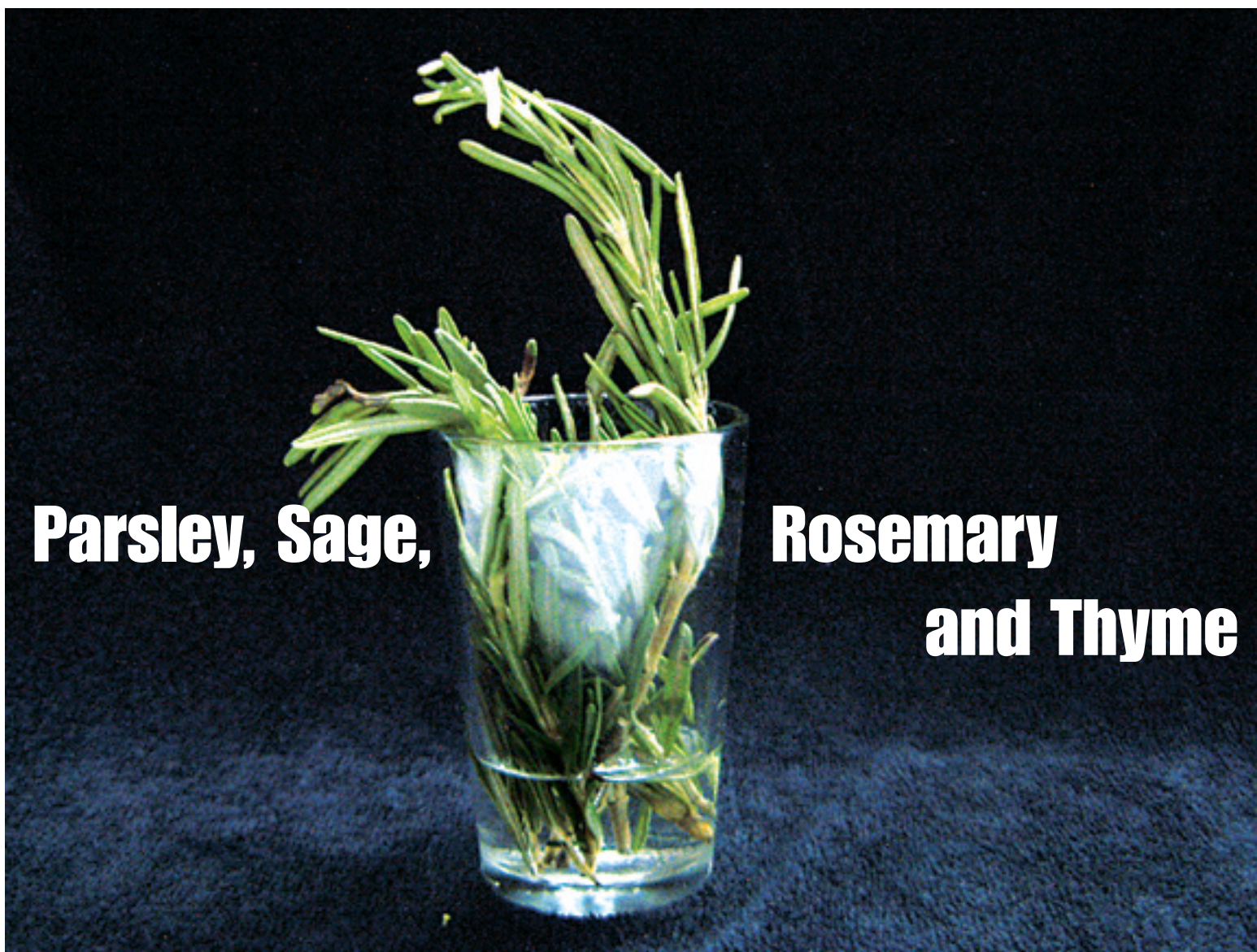
Fresh herbs can have more or less flavor than their dried versions, depending on a range of conditions. If using fresh herbs in a recipe that calls for dried, a good rule of thumb is a replacement proportion of three to one, meaning, for example, three teaspoons of fresh herb instead of one teaspoon of dried.

There are at least four places in Chaoyang District to pick up fresh herbs. Jenny Lou's stores tend to carry stocks that vary in freshness and variety, and the Heping market off Sanlitun bar street offers good quality herbs, including pots of mint and basil and occasionally even stalks of lemongrass. Another good place to look is Charlotte's Butchery near the east gate of Chaoyang Park, which normally has a range of prime herbs provided by local grower C. B. Eduls Co. Ltd. At all of these stores, bags of picked fresh herbs go from between 5 and 8 yuan per bag.

A more lasting option is to pick up a potted plant that can be kept on a windowsill. The widest range in town is available at a small stand tucked into the No. 6 aisle of the Laitai Flower Market run by the people from Lamon, a Middle-Eastern style restaurant in nearby Nuren Jie (Ladies Street). On offer are different kinds of basil, rosemary, chamomile, mint and many other herbs, most costing 5 to 20 yuan per pot. The helpful staff can tell you how to protect your herbal investment.

In general, herbs need lots of light, so be sure to position potted plants near a sunny window. When picking herbs, snip them off at joints on the stem, don't just strip the leaves, in order to promote growth and protect the plant.

The delicate flavors in herbs come from natural oils present in their leaves. These oils are fragile, however, and can dissipate if the herb is cooked too long. The best way to use fresh herbs is to add them towards the very end of cooking and never cook them in liquid for more than one hour. And while there are no strict rules on how



Whole herb stems put in a cup with a little water, covered loosely with a plastic bag and refrigerated can stay good for many days.

to combine herbs, it is best not to mix two strongly flavored ones, because they can simply take over a whole dish.

Below is a short, by no means complete, list of some of the more interesting, useful herbs that can be found fresh in Beijing.

Basil – There are over sixty varieties of basil known in the world, but the easiest kind of find in Beijing is sweet basil. The name is appropriate, as this herb has a slightly sweet, mildly licorice, peppery flavor that makes it a natural addition to sauces and salads.

Basil turns up in cuisines all over the globe, but is believed to be native to India, and despite present obscurity, was known in China in 907 AD, according to historical records.

The flavor is in the leaves, so discard all but the thinnest stems. Leaves should be picked before the plant has flowered, and avoid any with dark spots.

In Thai and Vietnamese fare, basil is often served fresh as a garnish, for example as a topping for the classic Vietnamese beef soup *pho*. It is also a natural pair for tomatoes, a standard combination in Italian fare represented in *margherita* sauce and the classic salad of tomato, fresh mozzarella cheese and basil leaves.

To make that simple, delicious salad, simply combine slices of fresh tomato and cheese with whole basil leaves, sprinkle the salad with salt and pepper and drizzle with olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

Cilantro – This member of the carrot family goes by many names around the world, coriander, *xiangcai*, even "Chinese parsley" and "Mexican parsley". It has a strong, biting flavor that makes it perhaps the most divisive of fresh herbs – people tend to either love it or hate it.

The whole plant is edible, from the leaves to the stems to the roots and seeds (known

as coriander in the US). In Chinese cuisine, cilantro, in whole stems or minced, is a common garnish, particularly

as a means to add a cooling element to spicy dishes such as *xianglaxie*, spicy crabs. It is also a natural match with rice, bean-based dishes, and salads, such as the common Chinese cold dish *laohucai*, a mixture of thin strips of raw cucumber, scallion and green chili pepper with cilantro stems bound with a little sesame oil and vinegar.

Mint – This popular herb comes in scores of varieties, though most share a similar refreshing fragrance and pleasant, sweetish taste. This is one herb that does appear occasionally in Chinese cooking, particularly in the cuisine of Guizhou province, where it is a key ingredient in the classic dish *huajiang gouro* (huajiang dog).

Mint is easy to brew into crisp tea and stars in popular cocktails such as Cuba's *mojito*. It is a natural accompaniment to the richness of lamb and duck, while also doing excellent service in salads and fruit dishes, and when accompanying cucumber, tomato, eggplant and potatoes.

Mint Chutney

This rich, Indian-style sauce is an excellent match for lamb as well as roasted or grilled vegetables.

Ingredients: 1/2 cup chopped onion; 1 tablespoon olive oil; 1/4 cup golden raisins, coarsely chopped; 3 tablespoons white-wine vinegar; 1/4 cup water; 1/4 teaspoon dried hot red pepper flakes; 1/4 teaspoon ground coriander; 1/4 teaspoon salt; 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves, chopped

Procedure: Cook onion in oil in a small skillet over moderate heat, stirring, until pale golden. Stir in raisins, vinegar, water, red pepper flakes, coriander, and salt and simmer two minutes.

Transfer to a bowl and cool completely. Stir in mint just before serving. Makes about 1 1/4 cups

Oregano – Sometimes called "pizza herb" because it is a signature ingredient in pizza sauce, this small-leaved herb

has a significant place in Mediterranean cuisine. The small leaves pack a heady aroma and strong, peppery flavor. Oregano is a close relative to another herb available fresh around town, **marjoram**, which generally has a softer, sweeter flavor.

Only the leaves should be used, as the stems are bitter. Oregano goes great with tomatoes and can add another layer of flavor to many Mediterranean dishes that call for basil.

Rosemary – The needle-like leaves of this fragrant plant have a sharp, piney, pungent taste that is beloved in their native Mediterranean and beyond. Besides being delicious, rosemary has many health benefits, as it can counter carcinogens, treatment dizziness and stomach ailments and improve skin.

Fresh rosemary leaves are an excellent addition to roasted meat and vegetables, such as potatoes and carrots, and make a simple, sinfully rich pasta sauce when sautéed in butter.

Roasted Sweet Potato with Rosemary

Ingredients: 3 medium sweet

potatoes (about 500 grams total); 2 tablespoons unsalted butter; 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary leaves

Procedure: Preheat oven to 400°F. Cut potatoes lengthwise into one-centimeter slices. In a shallow baking pan, heat butter in oven two minutes, or until melted. Add potatoes, tossing to coat, and sprinkle with rosemary and salt and pepper to taste. Roast potatoes for 10 minutes, gently toss, and then roast for another 10 minutes or until tender.

Makes two servings.

Sage – This relatively large-leaved herb has a powerful flavor with slight musty and camphor qualities. It is perfect with meats and a crucial ingredient in many Western sausages, imparts rich flavor to roasted chicken, and also goes well with sautéed onions and in hearty bean soups and stews.

Sage-Walnut Pesto

Fresh sage has a very strong flavor, so start with the prescribed amount and cautiously add to taste. Simply put this delicious sauce on top of cooked pasta and stir for a delicious, easy meal.

Ingredients: 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley; 3 to 4 tablespoons chopped fresh sage; 1 garlic clove, chopped; 1 teaspoon salt; 1 cup walnuts, toast-

ed and cooled; 1/3 cup olive oil; 1/3 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese; 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Procedure: Finely chop parsley, sage and garlic with salt in a food processor, then add walnuts and pulse until also finely chopped. With motor running, add oil in consistent stream. Turn off machine, then stir in cheese and pepper.

Mix into cooked, hot pasta, using a little of the pasta boiling water to thin the sauce. Sprinkle with a little more cheese before serving.

Makes four large servings

Tarragon – This herb, now closely associated with French cooking, is actually native to Mongolia and Siberia and was relatively unknown until Mongols transported it to Europe in the 13th century. Its bitter-sweet flavor with a hint of licorice is strong to point that it can be overpowering, so use this herb sparingly. Its taste intensifies with heat and is a key component in the complex French classic *Béarnaise* sauce.

Thyme – Native to the Mediterranean, thyme has long been used for medicinal purposes and is even considered an aphrodisiac. There are over 100 varieties of thyme, though all share small, highly aromatic leaves with delicate, minty, clove-like flavor. The leaves are sweetest when picked just after the plant has flowered. Thyme can be strong, so should be used in moderation, but can add delicious flavor to sautéed mushrooms, chicken and potatoes and to roasted dishes.

Mussels with Thyme and Shallots

This simple, Corsican-style dish produces a rich, delicious sauce, so have bread on hand for mopping it up.

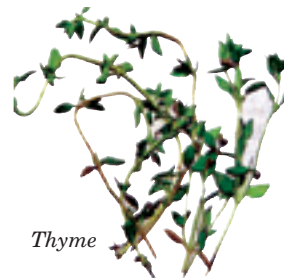
Ingredients: 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil; 6 shallots, finely chopped; 8 fresh thyme sprigs; 2 bay leaves; 1 cup dry white wine; 1 cup bottled clam juice (can be replaced with chicken or vegetable stock); 1/4 cup whipping cream; 2 pounds mussels, scrubbed, debearded

Procedure: Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add shallots and sauté until soft, about 10 minutes. Add thyme, bay leaves, wine, clam juice or stock and cream and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until mixture has reduced to one

cup, about 10 minutes. Add mussels, cover and simmer until mussels open, about seven more minutes. Be sure to discard any mussels that do not open. Divide mussels among bowls. Season the broth with salt and pepper to taste and ladle it over the mussels. Makes 6 servings



Mint



Thyme



Basil



Rosemary



Cilantro



Sage



Store cut fresh herbs in a moist paper towel in a plastic bag and refrigerate.



This Thai-style minced pork salad gets a big flavor boost from basil, mint and cilantro.



A little thyme and basil is enough to push roasted potatoes from ordinary to superb.

Middle East Eats at Lamos

By Sarah Bai

The 1,001 Nights restaurant in the Sanlitun area has long had a near lock on the Beijing market for Middle Eastern food, a cuisine sadly under-represented in this city. Since April, however, that venerable local institution has had a new rival in the form of the Lamos Café and Lebanese restaurant in the popular Nurenjie area.

Lamos is a nice place to get an unusual meal, though there are some glitches and management seems to be struggling to find a concept to stick with. The restaurant is huge, with a sizeable outside area and expansive bottom and second floors that offer views and a stage for belly dancing and other performances.

The menu features a range of newly-added Chinese dishes and hot pot as well as a mix of foreign food, from western-style salads (25-40 yuan each) to Asian standards such as *nasi goreng* and a

selection of grilled beef (118 yuan for 300 gram rib-eye steak). But, at least according to its sign Lamos is a Lebanese specialist, so flip past these pages and go for the Middle Eastern fare. A great way to start is with the appetizer sampler, the large version of which costs 60 yuan and includes six dips and mixes for eating with pita. All of them are winners, especially the *mhamarah*, a red-dish mixture made of corn, and the *hummus* and *mutabal* made with roasted eggplant, that benefit from delicious, fresh-made *tahini*, or sesame paste.

To follow, Lamos offers a selection of Lebanese style salads and meat kebabs. The *tabbouleh* salad (25 yuan) is a tasty mix of tomato, onion, lemon juice and fresh herbs, but missing the bulghar that should be the main ingredient. Among the meatier choices, the hot sausage (50 yuan) is a generous plate of satisfying, high-

ly seasoned ground beef and the kebab eggplant (35 yuan), grilled skewers of eggplant slices and meatballs, is fine, but the *shish ta'wook* (40 yuan), or chicken kebab, is disappointing, nicely cooked but lacking in flavor. Dinner can be followed by up something from the short desert list, extensive drinks menu or with hookahs available at 38 yuan a session for those looking for a different kind of buzz.

Last month, Lamos' management was making murmurs about starting theme music nights and introducing new Pakistani, Mediterranean and Mexican dishes to the menu. They seem to have gone first for safer Chinese additions, but here's hoping they stick with their plan - it's about time somebody in Beijing offered decent Mexican food!

Add: Nuren Jie, Chaoyang
Tel: 6465 6681 **Open:** 10:30 am – 10 pm **Average Cost:** 60 yuan per person and up

Services



A painting of the newly upgraded lobby in China World Hotel

China World Hotel Reopens

The Shangri-La China World Hotel, Beijing announced on August 19 the completion of its US\$30 million renovation of its Grand Lobby. Dubbed the most expensive "facelift" in local hotel history, the renovation program has transformed the 716-guest-room hotel with a vibrant mix of Chinese and Western design.

The hotel has added new amenities such as wireless broadband Internet access (Wi-Fi) and a dedicated meeting service team.

The Lobby Lounge is decorated with hand-painted porcelain lamps. The Buffet High Tea is 88 yuan per person and includes coffee, tea and soft drinks. The Afternoon High Tea, served on a unique 3-tier stand and offering a mouth-watering range of pastries, is 138 yuan per person.

After the renovation program, the four executive floors have 126 new Horizon Club guestrooms, a new Horizon Club Lounge and 24-hour butler service. The introductory room rate starts at US\$188.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie Tel: 6505 2266

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By Guo Yuanfan

Movies

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines

Directed by Jonathan Mostow, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Nick Stahl, Kristanna Loken and Claire Danes. A decade has passed since John Connor helped prevent Judgment Day and save mankind from mass destruction. By living "off the grid" – not having a phone, a home, or credit cards – he avoids being detected by Skynet, the network of machines that's still after him... In English.

Where: UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** from August 29 **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 6261 2851



Together (Heni zai yiqi)

Directed by Chen Kaige, starring Tang Yun, Chen Hong, Liu Peiqi and Wang Zhiwen.

A 13-year-old boy, living in a provincial Chinese town, is an extremely talented violinist. For him, his music is a way of expressing his feelings. But in the "new China," the potential for fame and riches as a professional musician inevitably takes precedence over simple human emotions. Chinese with English subtitles.

Where: Lee's Carpet House, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** August 29, 8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8457 2772 **Searching For Shangri-La, part 2 (Xunzhao Xianggelila)**

Directed by Yang Tao, starring Laurence J. Brahm. An experimental documentary about a journey to Tibet by Laurence J. Brahm, a wealthy American businessman. It covers the colorful lives of minority people, the breathtaking landscapes of western China, painters and musicians on similar quests to Laurence, and conversations with monks about tourism, cities, and spirits. In English.

Where: Cherry Lane outdoor movies, Fountain Terrace, Hilton Hotel, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu **When:** August 29-30, 8:30 pm **Admission:** 50 yuan, includes a beer/non-alcoholic drink **Mobile:** 13901134745

Activities

Tour: Mei Lanfang Memorial

Mei Lanfang, who was known for his uncanny portrayal of "dan" (female) roles in Peking opera, was perhaps the most famous Peking Opera star ever. Visit Mei's memorial, a prince's mansion transformed into a courtyard, and hear a talk on the life of this master and the art of Peking Opera, along with a short video documenting the main events of his life. English translation provided.

Where: Mei Lanfang Memorial, 9 Huguosi Dajie **When:** August 31, 2-4:30 pm **Admission:** 40 yuan **Mobile:** 13501035145

Music

Jasmine Night

Performed by China Song and Dance Ensemble. The programs include *Moli Hua (Jasmine)*, *Aobao Xianghui (Let's meet at the Yurt)* and selections from *Evita*.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall **When:** August 30, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 40-100 yuan **Tel:** 6559 8285

Language Exchange

Viviana, a 24-year-old college graduate, optimistic, open-minded, is interested in working as a private tutor for foreign friends who are learning Chinese. **Email:** vivianasmling@hotmail.com

Angela, a female teacher, wants to make friends with an English native speaker. **Mobile:** 13611062099 **Email:** feelgaze@163.com

Sports

Tennis Session

The best season in Beijing is coming and it is time to get that backhand right. Join Beijing's leading sports facility during September and receive a free tennis session with Dave Roberts, professional tennis coach from Peter Burwash International.

Tel: 6561 8833 ext. 6465 **Where:** Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang **Cost:** 300 yuan (for club members) and 420 yuan per hour

Expats Climbing Test

A climbing competition for foreign residents of Beijing will be held on September 20 at the climbing wall set up by the Wind, Rain & Snow Outing Club inside Ritan Park. The Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries will offer participants climbing equipment and training sessions on September 13 and 15 at a price of 20 yuan per person per session. All local expats aged 13 or older are welcome to enter the vertical race and those interested should register before September 10. **Tel:** 8562 3807 **Email:** sales@e-outdoor.com.cn

China Touring Car Championships 2nd Round

Top level sports car racing at Goldenport Motor Park.

Where: Goldenport Motor Park, 1 Jinggang Dalu, Jingzhan Town, Chaoyang **When:** August 30, 8:30 am-5:30 pm **Admission:** 100 yuan **Tel:** 8431 8188

Parties

Dancing Queen

The party features Disco music popular in the US during the '70s and '80s. Get on down to the grooves with Beijing's hottest DJs, like Weng Weng. Best dressed in '70s and '80s gear guys or girls get the chance to win a bottle of champagne.

Where: Yan Club, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** June 30, 9:30 pm **Admission:** 40 yuan, including a Bacardi Breezer **Tel:** 8457 3506

Jams



Lucky Bands

The SUBS will be on stage along with other bands on August 29. Thin Man (Shouren) has returned with a new band roster; check out their new incarnation on Saturday night. On Sunday night Sufei Garden (Sufei huayuan), Convenience Store (Bianli Shangdian), Billows of Babble (Bolan Tonghua) and Skyscraper (Motianlou) will perform.

Where: Get Lucky, 500 meters east of the south gate of the University of International Business and Economics, Chaoyang **When:** 9:30 pm **Admission:** 30-40 yuan **Tel:** 6429 9109

Muma's Back

Muma (Wooden Horse) are back from their month-long tour of China - go and welcome them!

Where: Loup Chante, east gate of Peking University, Haidian **When:** August 30, 9:30 pm **Admission:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6276 7355

Exhibitions

Five Artists Exhibition: Zhang Yonghong, Cai Qin, Cao Xia, Liu Xin and Huang Haiyan

The paintings express youthful love, and women's sensitivity and tender heart hidden in the modern city.

Where: New Millennium Art Gallery, Diyang Building, 2 Dongsanhuan Beilu **When:** August 30–September 16, 9 am–6 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8453 6193

Jiang Zhixin Solo Exhibition

Featuring works by Jiang Zhixin, a Gansu native who graduated from Northwest Normal University and trained at the Beijing Art Academy. He has held exhibitions in Hong Kong, America and France.

Where: Fa Fa Gallery, 2 Xiangjiang Beilu, opposite Riviera Garden, Chaoyang **When:** September 1-30, 9 am–10 pm **Admission:** free **Mobile:** 13001908730

Cao Jingping Solo Exhibition

Cao Jingping was born in Chongqing in 1972 and graduated from the Sichuan Institute of Fine Arts. With his unique approach, he is able to paint a sharp contrast between the fleeting, organic nature of life and the stubborn permanence of abandoned human debris.

Where: Schoeni Art Gallery, B-904, Soho New Town, 88 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang **When:** September 4–October 15, 11am–7 pm, Tuesday–Sunday **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8580 2142



Cabbage by Cao Jingping

"As Time Goes By" Art Exhibition

The exhibition focuses on the colorful world seen through the eye of artists. The paintings are from different times, and are by different artists, including oil paintings and ink wash paintings.

Where: Creation Art Gallery, north end of Ritan Donglu **When:** till September 19, 10 am–7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570

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By Zhao Hongyi

For a city the size of Beijing, maintaining a clean and stable water supply is a vital matter. Most of the capital's drinking water comes from Yanqing county, in Beijing's northwest. As such, the area enjoys a special level of protection.

The 2,200 square kilometer mountainous county has a population of only 270,000. It collects water from the mountains of Taihang in the west and Yanshan in the north. Any industry that could potentially pollute the waters of the two reservoirs, Guanting (官厅水库) and Baihebao (白河堡水库), is forbidden.

The county has preserved a vast wetland through which water is filtered in the west, and a large area of forest in the east. The chief sources of income for the locals are ecologically friendly agriculture, and, more recently, eco-tourism.



Song Shan (Pine Mountain) Forest Resort (松山森林公园)

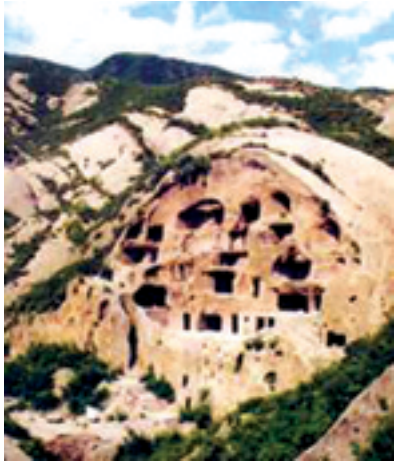
Song Shan is the only national level nature reserve in greater Beijing. It covers a total area of 4,600 hectares, a little over one quarter of which is open to tourism.

Natural scenic spots are plentiful. Springs, ponds, waterfalls, streams and rock formations make it a picturesque scenic spot, perfect for camping out and enjoying nature.

The average annual temperature at Song Shan is seven degrees centigrade, nearly three degrees lower than that of Chengde, the traditional summer resort of the royal family of the Qing Dynasty.

The resort is famous for mineral springs. The water is rich in iron, magnesium, sulphur and potassium, just the thing for a curative holiday.

Getting there: Take Bus 919 from Deshengmen (德胜门) long distance bus station to Yanqing, and from there, take the shuttle bus to Song Shan **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6911 2634



Guyaju (古崖居)

In the west of Yanqing county stands an unusual hill among the thousands of stone mountains. What makes the hill unusual, is that it appears as if it has been sliced in half, and in the exposed cliff face are 174 caves.

Most of the caves are connected either vertically or horizontally by tunnels and paths. Inside are stone tables, hearths, beds and chimneys, cut from local stone.

It is a village of an ancient tribe, little is known about who the former inhabitants were. Some archaeologists believe the caves were made and used by the Xixi people, an ethnic group that once inhabited northern China, but disappeared some 1,000 years ago, around the end of the Tang Dynasty.

Getting there: Take the shuttle bus from Yanqing **Admission:** 30 yuan



Petrified Wood National Geology Park (硅化木国家地质公园)

On either side of the Bai River, to the northeast of Yanqing, is a 226-square-kilometer park of petrified wood.

The petrified wood was formed 140-180 million years ago, when the

area was the site of intense volcanic activity, and is believed to be of great scientific value. Canyons, gorges, valleys, lakes and ponds make it a great spot for geological adventuring.

Xinzhazi (辛栅子) is the only village in the deep heart of the park. Meals are available here at very reasonable prices.

Getting there: Take a shuttle bus from Yanqing to the park (60 kilometers) **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6018 8087



Unrestored Great Wall (残长城)

In the south of the Yanqing county, the Great Wall zigzags for five kilometers along the lofty mountains and deep valleys.

Though in a poor state of repair, this section offers visitors a chance to walk on the original Great Wall, built five hundred years ago in the Ming Dynasty, unlike the tourist

spot of nearby Badaling, which has been rebuilt numerous times and is maintained all year around.

This section of the Great Wall is also famous for the role it played in the downfall of the Ming Dynasty in 1644. While the Manchurian troops crossed the wall north-east of Beijing, a peasant rebel force led by Li Zicheng broke through the fortresses here in their marching toward Beijing, then capital of the Ming dynasty.

Getting there: Take the shuttle bus from Yanqing to the park **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 6912 0990



Wetland Park (湿地公园)

The Gui River (妨河) runs through the urban area of Yanqing. Unlike many rivers in northern China that are disappearing, a result of over use of water resources, the zigzagging, 130-kilometer-long river has abundant water and is the main source for Guanting Reservoir. The area either side of the river between the city of Yanqing and the foot of the mountains in which it rises is now preserved as a wetland park.

Construction, agriculture, farming, hunting and fishing are prohibited within a one kilometer zone on each side of the river, covering an area of 10,000 hectares. According to Zhao Yanxia, information director of Yanqing county, this ban helps guarantee a clean water supply for Beijing.

The wetland also plays a role in moderating the temperature, countering the effects of sandstorms and controlling flooding in the area. It also acts as a vast genetic storage of plants. Now the park has become a permanent home to 185 species of birds, including ducks, cranes, swans and bustards. Boating and walking in the park are free.

Getting there: The park is just five minutes walk along the Gui River from Yanqing **Admission:** free

Photos by bjyq.gov.cn

Tour of Yanqing

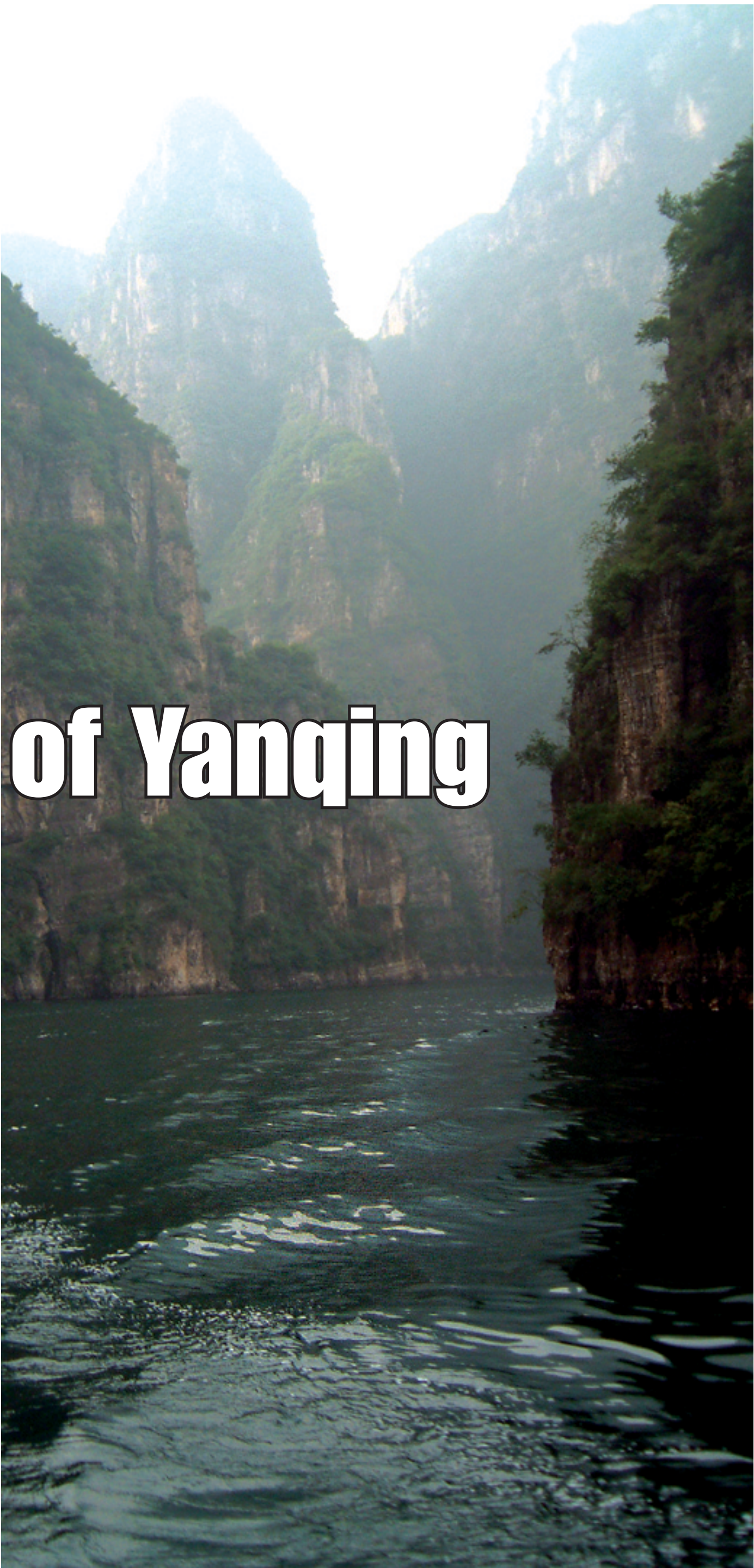


Photo by Zhao Hongyi

Other nearby sites:

Longqing Gorge (龙庆峡)

The seven kilometer Longqing Gorge (see photo above) presents scenes similar to those of Guangxi's Lijiang and Guilin, and almost as grand as those along the Yangtze's Three Gorges.

Activities include bungee jumping and navigating rope walkways. Refreshments available at teahouses and cafes in farmers' yards. There is also an annual Ice Sculpture Art Festival in January.

Getting there: Take a shuttle bus from Yanqing **Admission:** 35 yuan for entry, boating is an extra 40 yuan

Magic Wild Mountain Gorge (野山峡)

Natural caves and 220 stone sculptures are the major attractions.

Getting there: Take bus 920 from Yanqing to the gorge **Admission:** 20 yuan

Yudu Mountain (玉渡山)

Mountains, brooks, lakes, waterfalls, stones, plants, flowers and grass over a 100-square-kilometer area.

Getting there: Take a shuttle bus from Yanqing **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6919 0280

Kangxi Prairie (康熙草原)

The biggest grassland around Beijing covers 2,000 hectares and is rich in animal and plant life. Attractions include horse riding, camel riding, go-carts, archery, motorcycling, and Mongolian food.

Getting there: Take bus 919 from Deshengmen in Beijing **Admission:** 20 yuan entry, tickets for individual activities are extra

Badaling Safari World (八达岭野生动物园)

At the foot of Badaling Great Wall, the park boasts over one hundred species of animals.

Getting there: Take Bus 919 from Deshengmen to the entrance of the park. **Admission:** 70 yuan

Summer Capital Park (夏都公园)

In south Yanqing, the park extends over both sides of the Gui River. It features 50 sculptures in stone, iron, copper created by artists from all over the world.

Getting there: Five minutes walk south from Yanqing **Admission:** free

Gui River Boating (妨河漂流)

The 15 kilometer section of the Gui River has more than 100 bends, making the river a fascinating place for boating. The banks of the river are heavily forested, turning the river into a green corridor.

Getting there: Five minutes walk south from Yanqing **Admission:** 100 yuan for boating, 120 yuan for a trip along the river. (Zhao Hongyi)